Castles and Manor-Houses

Illustrated

Odhams BRITAIN ILLUSTRATED *Series*

CASTLES AND MANOR - HOUSES

ILLUSTRATED

INTRODUCTION BY
LORD HARLECH, K.G.

128 Pages · Over 130 Photographs

HERE, shown with a wealth of beautiful illustrations, is the mellow splendour of Britain's historic castles and manor-houses, sentinels of a storied past that never loses its appeal. The grim battlements of the one and the gracious façades of the other can still conjure from Britain's rich history visions of bygone pomp and pageantry. Capturing both the romance and the beauty that remain, this book contains over 130 large-scale camera-studies—some specially commissioned for this volume—and all taken by leading photographers of the day. In this total are included fifteen fine aerial views and five double-page plates.

Nearly 100 castles are featured, amongst the most notable being those at Colchester, Dover, Rochester, and Windsor; Richmond in Yorkshire; Kenilworth in the Midlands; and Launceston in the West Country. In Wales, the castles at Cardiff and Caerphilly are shown and, in Scotland, Royal Balmoral and Edinburgh Castle. Amongst the many lovely camera studies of famous old manor-houses included are splendid views of the 200-foot façade of Derbyshire's Hardwick Hall; the sixteenth-century Montacute House in Somerset; Compton Wynyates—in the Cotswolds—Ockwells in Berkshire; Wiltshire's beautiful sixteenth-century Longleat; Bramhall Hall, Cheshire; and Plas Newydd—pride of the lovely Vale of Llangollen.

The photographs are accompanied by full-length narrative captions which provide a wealth of interesting information about the places shown. The book is in the following six sections, each preceded by helpful introductory text: SOUTH-EASTERN ENGLAND, THE NORTH COUNTRY, THE MIDLANDS, THE WEST COUNTRY, WALES, and SCOTLAND.

The striking photographs featured on the front and back of this wrapper feature Conway Castle and West-wood Manor-house, respectively. The artist's double-page impression of a medieval siege, on pages 10 and 11, was specially drawn for this volume by A. H. Hall.

12'6 *net*

CASTLES AND
MANOR-HOUSES
Illustrated

CONWAY CASTLE WITH TELFORD'S SUSPENSION BRIDGE

CASTLES AND MANOR-HOUSES

Illustrated

INTRODUCTION BY LORD HARLECH, K.G., F.S.A.,
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author of the Ministry of Works'
Regional Guides to the Ancient Monuments of England and North Wales.

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MORETON OLD HALL, CHESHIRE

Introduction

Few things in Britain portray more vividly the history of the island than the still surviving castles and ancient houses of its inhabitants down the centuries. They begin with the hilltop earthworks of pre-Roman peoples, of which Maiden Castle near Dorchester is the largest and most remarkable. The late Roman Forts of the Saxon Shore still survive from Burgh Castle near Yarmouth to Porchester in Hampshire, and are evidence of building in the fourth century of our era. Of the buildings of the Saxon, Angle and Danish settlers, a few churches but practically no human habitations remain. Nothing is more significant of the consequences of the Battle of Hastings than the number and very great scale of the stone "keeps" erected by William the Conqueror and his Norman tenants-in-chief, ecclesiastical as well as soldier earls and barons. The White Tower of the Tower of London, now appropriately housing the Royal collection of medieval armour, was the King's own work. Rochester and Dover in the south and the Bishops of Durham's castle adjoining their great cathedral in Durham, and their fortress of Norham on the Tweed, housed permanent garrisons, with which to police the northern counties and furnish on demand the King with a trained nucleus of his national army. The massive solidity and scale of these formidable constructions have withstood the ravages of time and war for nearly nine hundred years.

Two hundred years after William I, another warrior king, Edward I, determined to unify the entire island under his energetic rule. The independence of Wales was first eliminated and secured by ringing the coasts of the little principality with castles at all strategic points. We now know that the castles of Flint, Rhuddlan, Conway, Beaumaris and Harlech in North Wales were designed and carried out by a Savoyard imported by King Edward, named the Maître de St. Georges, whose name first appears as assistant in the building of a castle on the lake of Neuchâtel, now in Switzerland. His task in Wales completed, he accompanied the King to Scotland and built a castle at Linlithgow. He died in the siege of Stirling at the time when the Scots regained independence during the reign of the weakling English king, Edward II.

The next phase of castle building dates mainly from the time of the Wars of the Roses. Such castles were very different in siting and design from earlier castles, and to this period we owe the moated castles of the south, such as Bodiam in Sussex and Maxstoke in Warwickshire. Feudalism came to an end with the Battle

of Bosworth. The advent to sovereign power of the Tudor dynasty saw the civilizing influences of the European humanist Renaissance and the end of most of the medieval noble families. In the latter's place there rose new men of humble birth, and the effective beginning of the power of the House of Commons, as well as the growth of industry and commerce in the towns, dates from this time. The new families who rose to sudden wealth built palaces, while the humbler justices of the peace in the counties, and the woolstaplers and similar industrialists, built what are called "manor-houses," though the legal significance of the medieval manorial system soon became vestigial.

Of the great Elizabethan houses perhaps none is more remarkable than Bess of Hardwick's vast house in Derbyshire. Among her several husbands was Sir William Cavendish, who obtained a substantial rake-off from the dissolution of the monasteries, and for whom she began but never finished the house whose substantial ruins are close to the much larger Hardwick Hall which she built when she became Countess of Shrewsbury. Few of the great Elizabethan country palaces have undergone so little change within as well as without as Hardwick. Bess of Hardwick's Cavendish heirs and successors kept Chatsworth as their principal home and this house has been rebuilt and successively enlarged in later centuries. On a smaller scale many an ancient abbot or prior's house became, under Henry VIII, the seat of a new Tudor family amid the ruins of a medieval monastic foundation.

The style and turreted corners of Scottish castles from Bannockburn to the union of the Crowns of Scotland and England in 1603 show the long continuing influence of the alliance between France and Scotland, the traditional "foreign policy" of the latter kingdom for the maintenance of its independence.

The great age of house building was the Elizabethan, when the wealth and power of England so steadily increased. The many new families who made themselves in the Queen's service or in commerce spent lavishly in building country houses. Nobody quite knows for certain where Lord Burghley's grandfather, David Cecil, came from between Henry's landing in Pembrokeshire and his triumph at Bosworth—but for forty years of the forty-five years of her reign Burghley was Queen Elizabeth's right-hand man. He himself built Burghley House near Stamford, and his second son, who carried on his father's work into the reign of James I, built Hatfield House in Hertfordshire.

Most of the uninhabited castles and early houses have now passed under the care and custody of the ancient monuments department of the Ministry of Works. Restoration is discouraged, but effective steps have been taken to arrest further decay. All Edward I's castles in North Wales except Conway Castle are under the care of the Ministry; Conway remains the property of the local town council. But the Ancient Monuments Act and annual estimates limit the power and obligations

CASTLE INTERIOR, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE

NEWCASTLE is one of the most historic towns of the North Country; its castle was for hundreds of years a central point of its historic story. Nearly a thousand years before the era of castle building which began with the Normans, the site of Newcastle was a station of importance on the Great Wall which the Romans built from the Tyne to the Solway Firth to ward off attacks by Picts and Scots. Its name then was Pons Aelii. By the Saxon period its name had been changed to Monk Chester, Chester being the Saxon equivalent of the Roman *castra* or camp, Monk being added because of the large number of monastic establishments then in the town. The castle was one of the early Norman fortresses designed to hold the local people in check and was built before the end of the eleventh century. The keep, of which the photograph shows part of the interior, was remodelled a hundred years later. Dismantled at the end of the Civil War, it has been partially restored and is now used as a museum. The keep is in an excellent state of preservation, and is one of the most magnificent specimens of Norman military architecture still remaining in England.

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of the Ministry to buildings not inhabited or inhabited only by one whole-time caretaker. Quite recently the Gowers' Committee has reported on steps that should be taken for the better preservation of inhabited country houses and their historic contents of pictures, furniture and ancient libraries—and a bill to give effect, at least to some of the recommendations, awaits the attention of Parliament. In France much has been done to safeguard the survival of *Demeures Historiques*. Clearly modern costs of upkeep not only of the buildings but their setting is beyond the possible means of most owners. A few, such as Wollaton Hall near Nottingham and Norwich Castle, have passed to the care of wealthy municipalities. But England's heritage of historic and beautiful country houses is now doomed, unless effective steps are taken to arrest decay into ruin. The same threat is increasing to our other glory of visible historic evidence—our cathedrals and parish churches. An American foundation, the Pilgrim Trust, has already been most munificent in this matter. It would be a tragedy if the only care and assistance that can be given by the Government remains limited to ruins. In recent years a voluntary society, the National Trust, has taken over many historic houses, which, by arrangement with the owners, are now open to visitors at various times and on various days. Unfortunately, owing to lack of funds the National Trust is unable to assist this worthy cause as much as it would like to do.

The survival into future generations of the buildings alone is not enough. Much of their beauty and historic interest derives as much from their incomparable settings in their surrounding gardens and parks, planted with timber both for utility and amenity. The owners of country houses in Britain have been gardeners, farmers and lovers of field sports. These characteristics have added greatly to the beauty and amenity of British houses, and the continued preservation of their surroundings is as important as of the actual structures.

Harlech

TANTALLON CASTLE, EAST LOTHIAN

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ARTIST'S IMPRESSION

This reconstruction of a siege of a castle in the thirteenth century illustrates the various methods adopted to assault or defend the walls. Engines for hurling large stones (trebuchets)

...F A MEDIEVAL SIEGE

and movable sheds (cats or sows), which protected the attackers from stones and other missiles dropped by the defenders, are seen. A movable scaling-tower is on the right.

THE HALL OF PENSHURST PLACE

South-eastern England

THE south-eastern counties of England are the nearest to the continent of Europe. Until the aeroplane age any attack launched on England was almost certain to be made against the south-east coast. In fact, to the British people of ancient times and the Middle Ages the English Channel was regarded as a moat which needed only additional defences facing across it to ensure safety for the country. That is the reason why almost all the coastal defences of England are concentrated in the area between the Wash and Southampton Water. Moreover, since the coast of Kent and Sussex between Dover and Chichester Harbour afforded the best opportunities for a landing, this area was always the most strenuously defended.

The Romans were the first to build castles of masonry or brick in this area; it is remarkable that there are still substantial fragments of their mighty fortresses standing today after 1,600 years. It was when the military power of Roman Britain was declining and there were increasing calls on the Roman legionaries to protect their frontiers nearer home that the government decided on a policy of castle building to protect a coastline which was already being harried by uncivilized Saxon tribes. A dignitary with the high-sounding title of Count of the Saxon Shore was appointed to secure the best possible defence against the Saxon pirates who were sailing with impunity into the little harbours of the south-east coast and harrying the countryside with fire and sword before departing again to their own land across the Channel. The problem became even more urgent when in the fourth century the Saxon warriors, finding Britain only thinly peopled, showed a disturbing tendency to make settlements near the coast from which it was extremely difficult to dislodge them.

The Roman defences were the Forts of the Saxon Shore, a series of giant fortresses extending from Norfolk to Hampshire, and including Anderida (Pevensey), Richborough and Porchester. So strong were their walls, so well constructed the bastions, that in several instances, among them Pevensey and Porchester, the Normans, who were always economical of effort, built castles of their own within the ambit of the Roman walls.

From Roman times onwards until the beginning of the nineteenth century there were recurrent threats of invasion, several of which resulted in a new crop of coastal defences. There was, for instance, the imposing series of castles built in the time of Henry VIII, including Walmer, Deal and Sandown, castles of a

novel design and quite unlike either the Roman or the medieval defences, rather a series of circular or semicircular bastions than a single massive fortification which was the keynote of all earlier castles.

The south-eastern counties are the first ground which a successful invader from Europe must consolidate. This was the problem which the Normans after their victory over the Saxons in 1066 faced and overcame. To them are due many of the finest of the medieval castles, some of them like Norwich and Hedingham designed primarily to overawe the Saxons and provide a base from which operations could be conducted if necessary, others such as London, Rochester, Canterbury and Dover combining this function with that of keeping open the important lines of communication from the port of entry at Dover to the great commercial town of London and the agricultural districts of the north and east.

London Castle, for instance, or the Tower as it is generally known, is one of the most interesting medieval fortresses in Europe. As we see it today it bears little relation to a Norman fortress, though the White Tower, so called because of its coat of whitewash renewed again and again in the later Middle Ages, is part of the Norman defences. The rest is a hotch-potch of fortifications and other buildings which have been added to in almost every century since the Norman Conquest. By contrast Rochester, guarding the ford over the Medway, though in a ruinous state, is as complete an example of a medieval castle as any in Britain.

In addition to these great fortresses the Normans built castles in Sussex and elsewhere to guard the places where the rivers broke through the downs from the then almost uninhabited weald into the fertile and populous districts near the coast. Bramber, Lewes and Arundel are three of these and there are others in similar positions in other counties, such as Guildford guarding the point where the River Wey breaks through the North Downs.

Arundel inevitably suggests the several medieval strongholds which later became palaces and more recently private residences, either like Arundel itself, the ancestral seat of the great ducal family, the Dukes of Norfolk, or like the incomparable Windsor, the home of the British Royal Family. Others, such as Berkhamsted, had a long and exciting history as a royal residence (it was the home of the Black Prince) only to share the fate of so many and fall after the close of the Civil War into an increasingly dilapidated and ruinous condition.

These are some of the highlights of the south-eastern counties, but they do not begin to exhaust the tale of interesting castles and manor-houses. There are later medieval castles such as Bodiam and Cooling, great castellated manor-houses, half castles, half houses, like Herstmonceux, and, especially in Kent, many medieval and Tudor manor-houses such as Penshurst Place, and Ightham Mote, and the later but equally magnificent home of the Sackvilles, Knole House.

THE HALL OF THE NORMAN KEEP, CASTLE HEDINGHAM

NORWICH CASTLE

THE castle of Norwich is outstanding in the admirable method of its restoration so that today it presents an appearance very little different from that of the keep which was built by one of the leading Norman families, the Earls of Norfolk, between 1135 and 1150. There had previously been a powerful Norman fortress on the site, and under Hugh Bigod in the twelfth century it became the chief centre of Norman influence in East Anglia. The castle built by Bigod was exceptional in size and strength, seventy feet high with walls more than twelve feet thick, capable of withstanding a prolonged siege, a fortress calculated to discourage opposition to Norman rule, and, as it did in later times, encourage confidence in the strength of Norman protection. The medieval city of Norwich rose to prosperity under the castle's protection and became, as it has remained ever since, the largest and most prosperous town in East Anglia. Like many other castles, that of Norwich, its purpose fulfilled, was converted into a county jail and as such continued in use until 1884, thus avoiding the gradual dilapidation which destroyed the fabric of many other castles. It is now the county museum and contains notable collections of local antiquities, and of the Norwich school of painting, and exhibits illustrating local natural history.

COLCHESTER CASTLE

COLCHESTER was a large town in the Roman province of Britain and was named Camulodunum. The Normans when they came to rebuild the town and construct the fortress, of which the keep is shown below and the entrance on the right, availed themselves of the building materials which were ready to hand in the ruins of the Roman town. The lower photograph shows well the layers of red Roman bricks which are interspersed with the stonework of the keep and give the whole castle a reddish appearance, rather like that of the tower of St. Albans Abbey, which was also built partly of materials taken from the nearby ruined Roman town of Verulamium. There seems to have been a Saxon stronghold before the Norman Conquest, probably on the same site as the present keep, which is the largest of the Norman fortresses in England, covering more than 17,000 square feet and protected by walls which in one place at least were a little more than thirty feet in thickness.

CASTLES OF SUFFOLK

ORFORD CASTLE (*left*) stands in an isolated position near the coast, the keep built on an artificial mound which may have been the mound of an earlier fortification. It was built in the reign of Henry II about 1165. Unlike most of the Norman fortresses, which are either square or circular, Orford is circular in plan but has a many-sided exterior protected by the towers shown in the photograph. It has a direct link with the castle of Framlingham (*below*), for it was probably erected by Henry II in order that he might keep a garrison in the district to contain the rebellious Bigods, who were in revolt against the King and held Framlingham as well as Norwich. When the rebellion was quelled Henry gave orders for the castle of Framlingham to be dismantled, though it was rebuilt soon afterwards and was a seat of the Dukes of Norfolk in the fourteenth century.
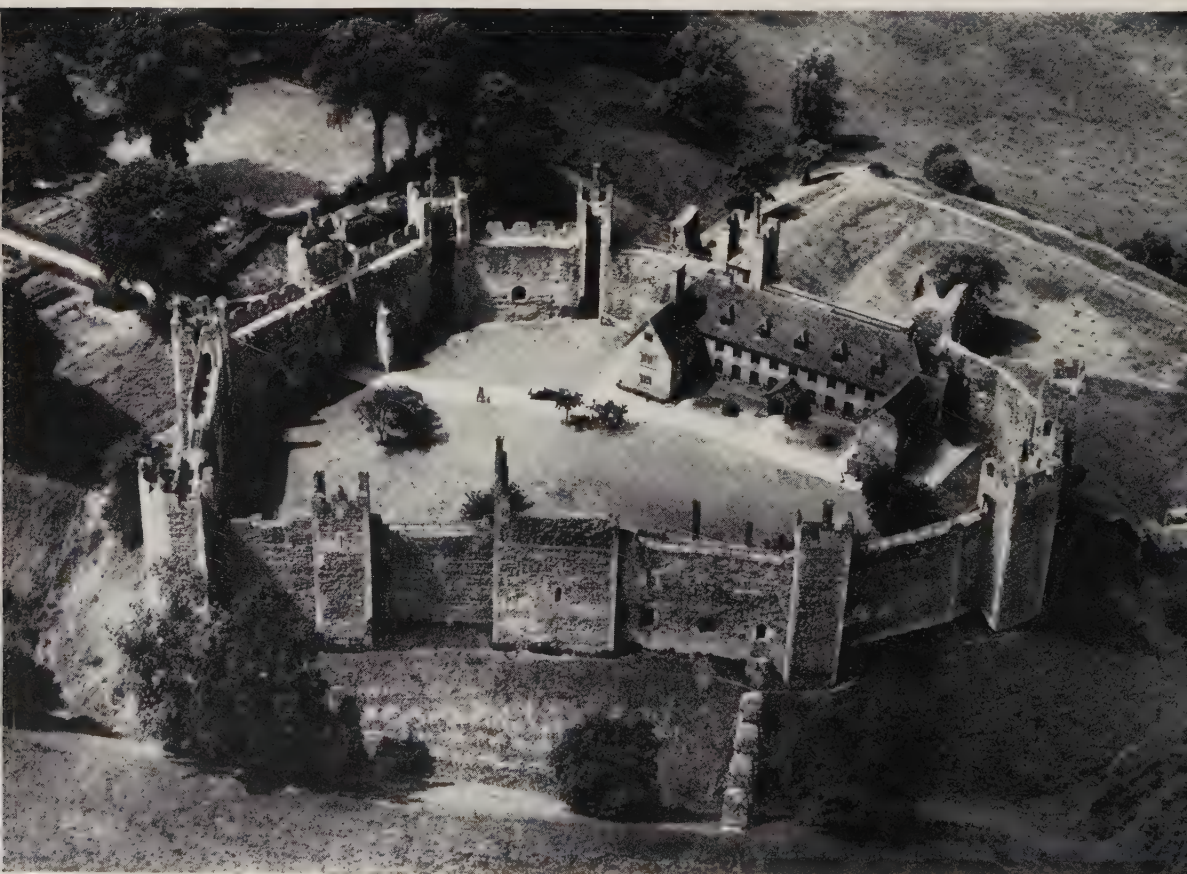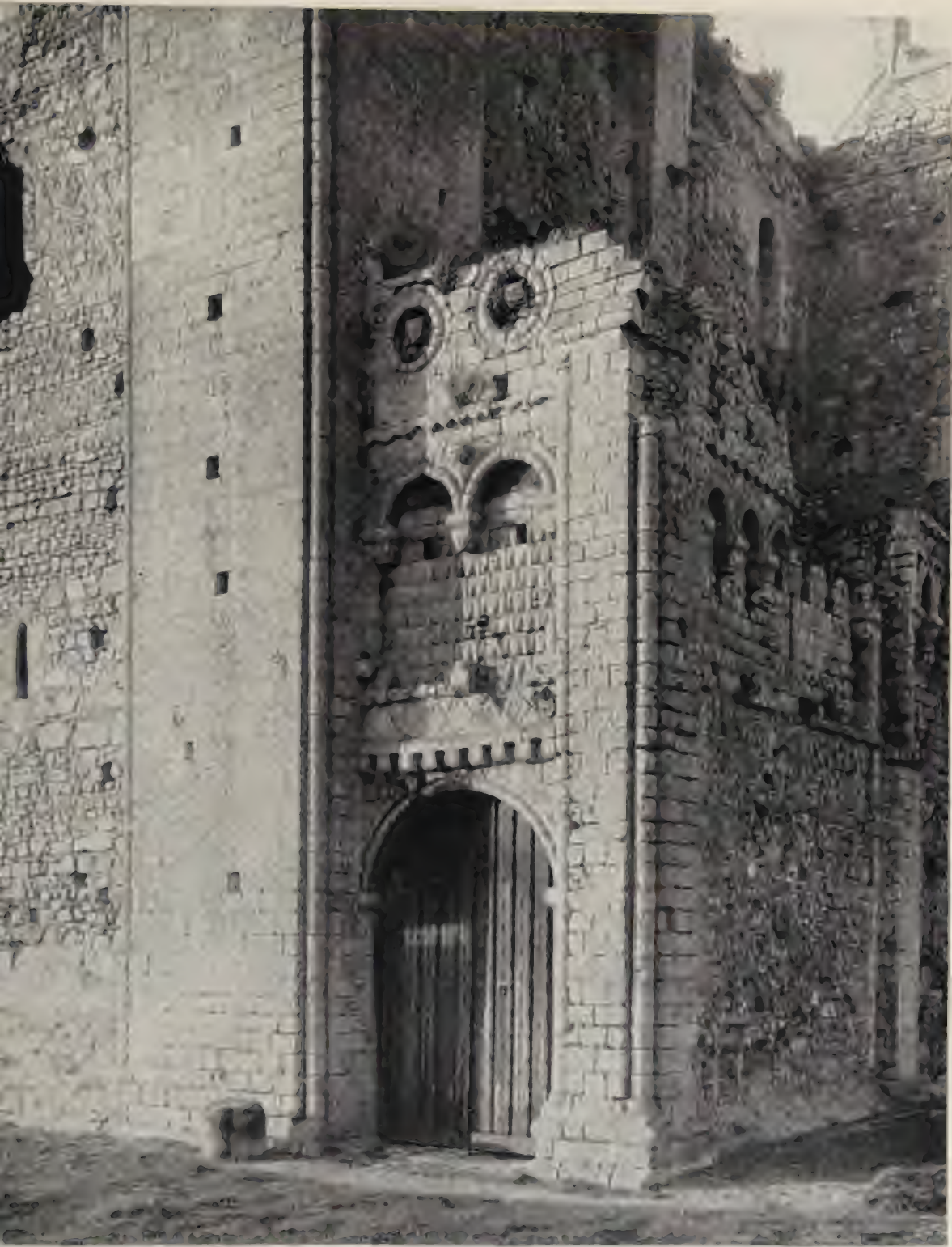
ENTRANCE TO THE KEEP, CASTLE RISING, NORFOLK

LAYER MARNEY TOWERS

LYING right off the beaten track, near Kelvedon in Essex, this beautiful manor-house is less well-known than many in southern England. It is one of the earliest brick-built residences and in this respect invites comparison with Herstmonceux Castle in Sussex. The building was begun about 1500 by a Baron Marney. The main interest of the design is that it is in the tradition of the Gothic castles and yet is embellished with much Renaissance detail, including the semicircular-headed windows in the towers, at a time when the new ideas coming into Britain from the Continent had not yet become popular. The eight storeys of the tower are also unique. On the left of the picture can be seen part of the great hall.

BEAUTY OF TUDOR MANOR-HOUSES

BY THE beginning of the Tudor period castle building except for some limited objects such as defence of the south-east coast had ended. Even the castellated manor-houses (manor-houses preserving the show of fortifications even though not intended for defence) had run their course; Layer Marney Towers (*opposite*) shows clearly the transition between the fortified manor and manor-house proper. The more settled times of the Tudor kings allowed architects to concentrate on beauty and comfort rather than on the most efficient way of making the home safe from enemies without. The result is the flowering of English architecture. Country houses became larger and more elaborate. In place of the functional architecture of the castle there is a tendency to decorative design and embellishment such as English building had never known before, as illustrated by the two examples of decoration on this page. Above is a six-shafted chimney-stack built between 1520 and 1550 and still adorning an Essex residence. Tudor and Elizabethan architects found in the grouping and moulding of chimneys an admirable means of expressing the finest principles of design and decoration. The elaborately decorated doorway below is from East Barsham manor-house in Norfolk. This is a mansion built in the reign of Henry VII and is one of the finest examples of the decorative qualities of brickwork, particularly appropriate in a county in which local building-stone is deficient. The house is in ruins, but the whole of the outer walls still standing are decorated with a series of beautiful medallions and shields.

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THE TOWER OF LONDON

HISTORICALLY and architecturally one of the most interesting fortresses in Europe, the Tower consists, as the photograph shows, of a central Norman keep, known as the White

ND TOWER BRIDGE

Tower, together with a concentric system of outer fortifications strengthened by towers
added in later centuries. It was the chief bulwark of London's defences in medieval times.

IN DOVER CASTLE

THE important Norman castles were divided into two parts: the outer ward, which was defended only by the bastion of the walls and in which the buildings housing the garrison and some of the constable's entourage were temporary ones, and the inner ward, which was the keep or fortress proper and, normally, was used as a residence (and a rather uncomfortable one at that) by the constable and his immediate retinue, though designed to receive the entire garrison in times of siege if there was any danger of the outer walls being scaled. The castles were designed, therefore, so that the keep contained all the essentials of castle life, including an independent water-supply, a storeroom for arms and equipment, the hall or living-room, which was normally on an upper floor to reduce the risk from flying arrows, and in some of the biggest castles a chapel. On the right is shown the chapel on the second floor of the keep of Dover Castle, a perfectly designed and beautifully orna-mented alcove intended primarily for the devotion of the constable of the castle, his family and his retainers.

THE ROYAL CHAPEL OF ST. JOHN IN THE TOWER OF LONDON

ON the opposite page is another chapel associated with a castle of Norman origin, though on a different scale from the modest little building at Dover (*above*), and one still used as a church. The pictures illustrate the two facets of Norman architecture which are equally brilliant whether applied to sacred or secular building. The upper chapel in the keep of Dover illustrates the perfection of detail which was the hallmark of Norman artistry and the chevron moulding which gives added grace and dignity to the small arch. Equal perfection of detail is seen in the carving of the pillars with their moulded capitals. The Royal Chapel of St. John, on the other hand, is an essay in the more massive architecture for which the Normans were justly famous. Here, though the pillars have the traditional capital and base, they impress more by their sheer weight and massiveness than by any added ornament. Similarly the repetition of the round arch form in every part of the church gives a symmetry of masses and at the same time an impressive simplicity which expresses beauty without any need for decoration or elaborate carving. The same effect can be seen in some of the great Norman churches, such as St. Albans Abbey in the south and Durham Cathedral in the north, where the theme of massive piers and the repetition of the round arch are carried out on a similar though far greater scale than in this chapel.

THE EMBATTLED CLIFF OF DOVER

THIS aerial photograph shows the successive fortifications which have been built over a period of two thousand years on the cliff overlooking Dover Harbour. In the foreground are the most recent defences, which are kept in good repair, since Dover Castle, true to its age-old traditions, is still used as a barracks. Behind is the Norman keep, while in the distance on an artificial mound are seen the Roman lighthouse, or pharos, and Saxon church.

AT THE MEDWAY FORD

HERE is the massive Norman keep of Rochester Castle, whose "curtain wall" abuts on the wide stream of the Medway, which the main highway from the port of entry at Dover to the metropolis of London has forded at this point since the beginning of historic times. Rochester Castle is thus one of the series of castles built by the Normans to defend the lines of communication between the Continent and the seat of government of England.
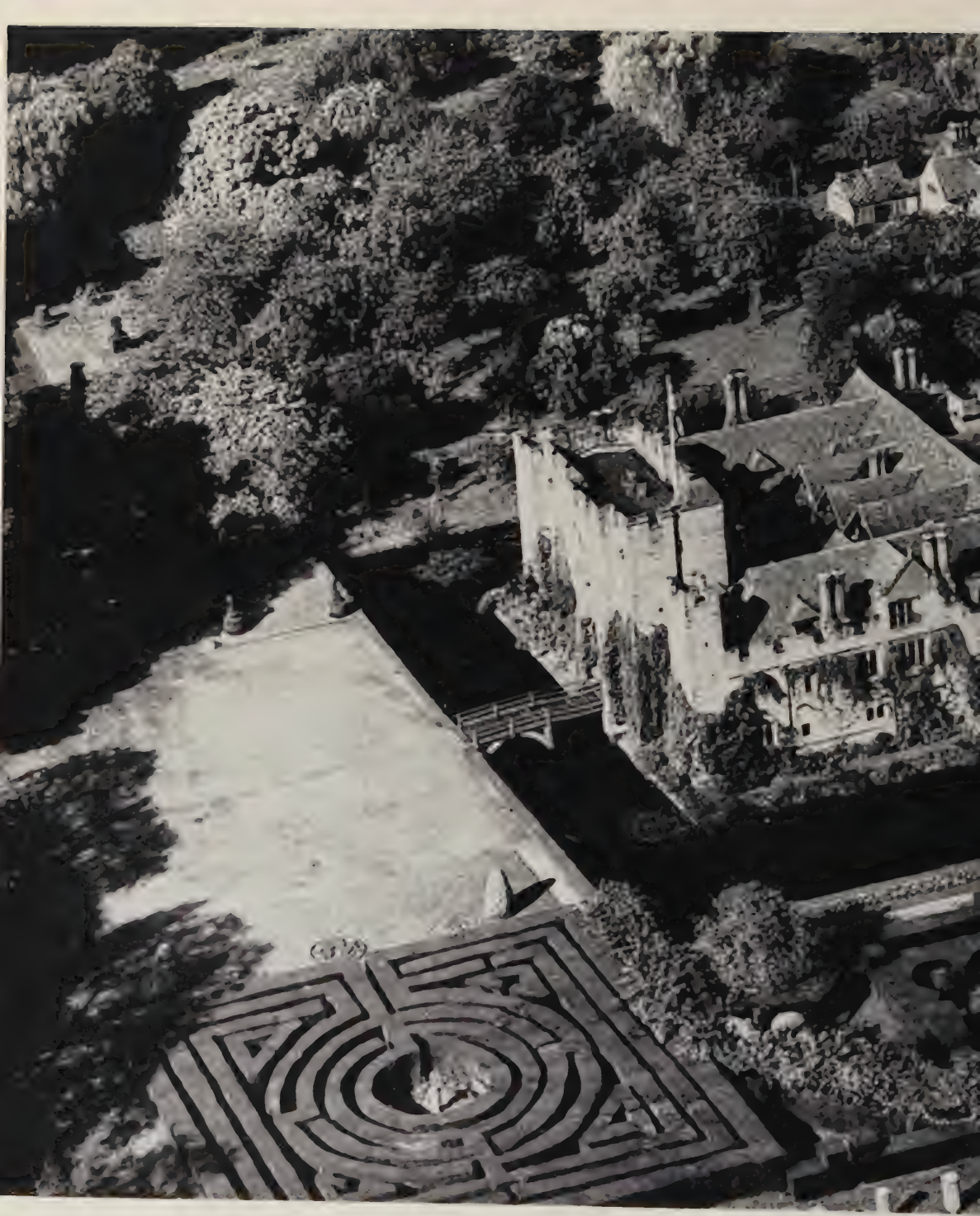
HEVER—MEDIEVAL CASTLE

THE core of modern Hever Castle is the residence seen in the left centre of the photograph.
The gate-house is part of a fortified manor-house built in the reign of Edward III. Later
the Boleyn family came into possession of it; Sir Geoffrey Boleyn rebuilt it about 1460.

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DERN RESIDENCE

Henry VIII visited the house often while courting the ill-fated Anne Boleyn, daughter of Sir Geoffrey's grandson. During the present century the first Viscount Astor restored the castle, adding a number of new buildings and Italian garden and maze seen here.

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HISTORIC MANORS OF KENT

KNOLE HOUSE (*above*), the ancestral home of the Sackville family, is the most perfect of the large Jacobean mansions of Britain, while Ightham Mote (*left*) typifies the many smaller manors built between the fourteenth and sixteenth centuries. A manor-house was built at Knole in the fifteenth century and came into the hands of the Sackville family as a gift from Queen Elizabeth in 1586. During the following fifty years it was rebuilt with a lavishness and magnificence unsurpassed in England and by 1650 presented much the same appearance as it does today. Ightham Mote, an early manor-house, though it has the moat and gate-house of the medieval castle, was probably built in the fourteenth century, while the upper storeys were reconstructed two hundred years later in Elizabethan times.

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CROWHURST MANOR-HOUSE, SURREY

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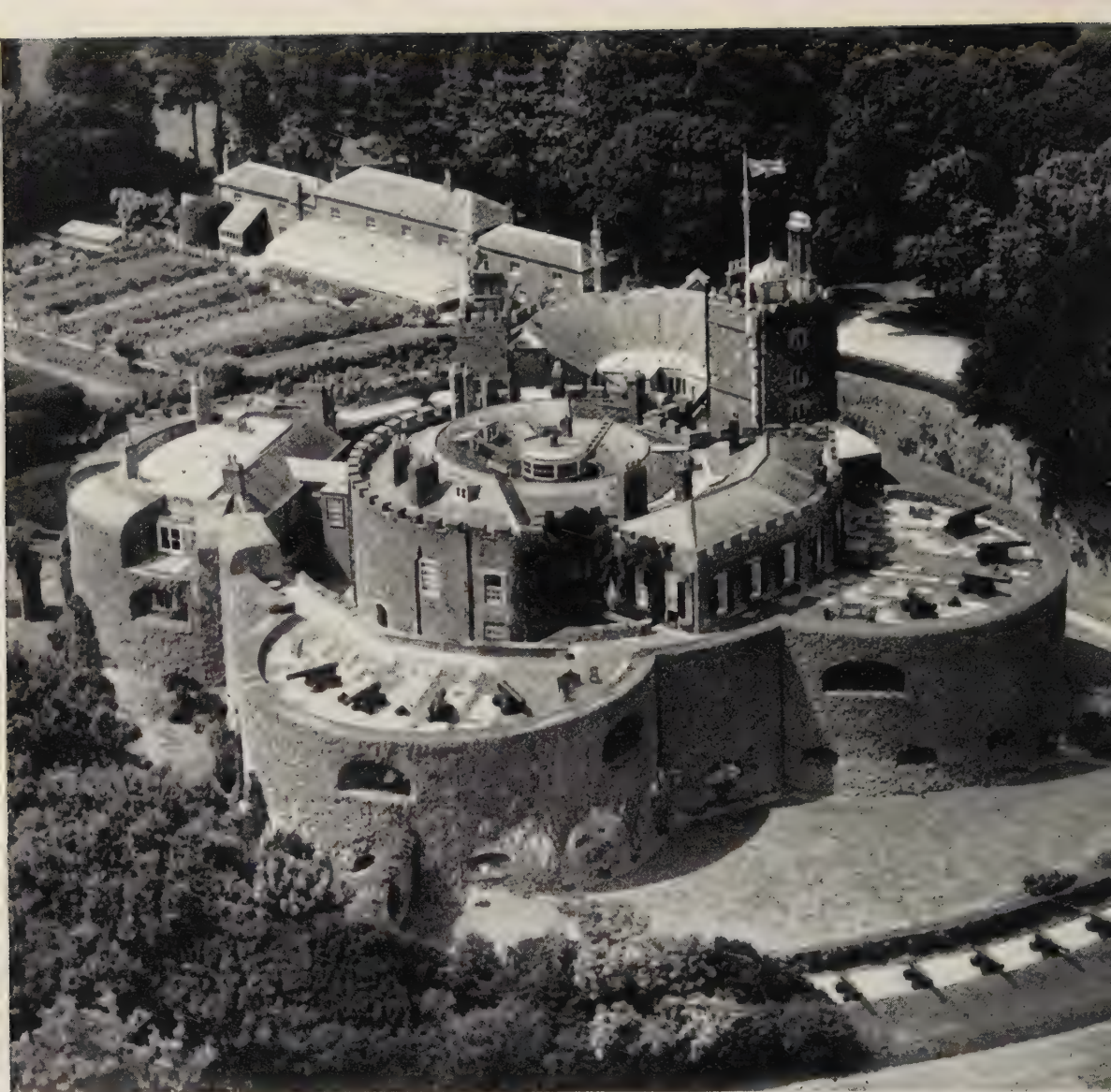
WALMER CASTLE

THE story of Walmer Castle begins in 1539, when what was at the time considered a revolutionary type of fortress was built here by order of Henry VIII, together with similar fortresses at Deal and Sandown, as part of an ambitious programme of coastal defences. The scheme underlying all three of the castles was the development of the concentric type of fortress perfected in Wales and the Welsh Marches nearly three hundred years before. There is a central tower, or keep, flanked by six semicircular bastions constituting an additional continuous wall, together with extensive outer defences. The circular tower and some of the semicircular bastions remain, although the tower has been reconstructed as a dwelling place and buildings have been added to make the castle conform to the changing fashions of living through the centuries as the official residence of the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. This was formerly one of the most coveted offices under the Crown, though now largely a sinecure, held among other distinguished people by Mr. Winston Churchill. Rows of cannon round the outer defences and the bastions are seen.

DEAL CASTLE

THE similarity in design between this and Walmer (*opposite*) is clearly shown in the photograph, as is the greater complexity of the fortifications. At Deal the six semicircular outer bastions all remain, as do those of an inner ring defending the central circular fortress. (Two of the inner circle have been partially demolished.) This "keep" has walls which at one point are thirty feet thick and have an average thickness of nearly fifteen feet. It is evident that a castle of this strength could have been held by a relatively small garrison against direct attack (its proximity to the sea is shown by the view of Deal promenade in the background). The criticism which can be sustained against such elaborate coastal defences is that they would have achieved little even in Tudor times to discourage landings by a determined enemy, who could have by-passed them without much difficulty.

THE ROYAL CASTLE, WINDSOR

THE aerial photograph on the opposite page shows the whole range of buildings, medieval and more recent, which make up what is known as Windsor Castle, one of the official residences of the British Royal Family. The artificial mound surrounded by a moat near the centre of the buildings is the earliest part of the castle and probably existed before the Norman Conquest as a fortification guarding an important ford over the Thames. William the Conqueror ordered the building of a circular keep on this mound, but the present keep dates from a rebuilding in the reign of Henry II. Additions and reconstructions have been made at many times. The Chapel of St. George in the foreground just inside the encircling battlemented wall was built about 1480 during the reign of Edward IV, who founded it as a collegiate chapel. It has since become the chapel of the Knights of the Garter and is one of the most glorious essays in late Gothic architecture in England or for that matter in the whole of Europe. A final and rather disastrous restoration of the castle buildings was begun by George IV and completed in the reign of Victoria by the architect Wyatville, who was responsible among other eccentricities for adding a storey to the medieval keep in order to make the view from the river more impressive. Many of the outer defences date from the lavish embellishments added in the reign of Edward III. Some of the carvings of the Chapel of St. George are shown on the left. Below is one of the "King's Beasts"; above, grotesque figures set high on the walls. The figures on the right represent the sun and moon, on the extreme left is probably a person of importance (whose identity is not known) in the reign of King Edward IV.

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A KENTISH CASTLE BUILT ON ISLANDS

THE genuine medieval stonework, together with a range of buildings constructed at the beginning of the nineteenth century in a style which is a colourable imitation of medieval workmanship, make up the Leeds Castle of today. This impressive ancient castle and modern residence is unique because it is built on three rocky eminences, two of them islands in a lake formed by damming up a stream and the third on the bank which formed the original dam. A more perfect natural defence could not be imagined nor a more romantic appearance for a castle whose history begins in the twelfth century when it was almost certainly founded by the same Robert de Crevecoeur who founded the famous Leeds Abbey nearby. The traditional date of the abbey foundation is 1114 and the first castle on the site may have been built within a few years of that date, though little or no Norman masonry survives. It is known, however, that by the reign of Edward I the castle, like so many others in the south of England, had reverted to the Crown and remained an occasional royal residence at least until the reign of Henry VIII. At the close of the Civil War Leeds escaped the fate of slighting meted out to most of the castles, especially those which had favoured the Royalist cause, and was requisitioned by the Protector as a prison-house for Dutch and French prisoners of war. In 1665 the famous diarist, John Evelyn, appears as governor of this prison. During the last hundred and fifty years, as a private residence, the castle has many times changed hands and for a period has served as a hotel.

BEAUTIFUL SUSSEX RUIN

BODIAM in the valley of the Rother is the most beautiful and apparently one of the most complete of the medieval Sussex castles. What appears to be a lake now nearly covered by water-lilies is in fact a moat whose water is kept moving by a tributary stream of the Rother, which flows through it. The appearance of completeness is misleading, for inside the circuit of the walls there is nothing but a few meagre ruins. The castle was slighted at the end of the Civil War, though there is no record of any battle having been fought about it, and since that time it has never been re-roofed nor any new buildings added. It is one of the latest of the English castles, for it was not begun until the closing years of the fourteenth century, only a generation before the great brick-built manor-house of Herstmonceux (page 40). In fact Edward III gave special permission for the fortifications in view of the distinguished service in the French wars which had been rendered by the lord of the manor, Sir Edward Dalyngrigge, at a time when the royal licence to crenellate new manors was extremely difficult to obtain. The castle was without a keep, its defences depending entirely on the strength of the outer walls protected by the moat and the semi-circular towers at the corners. The entrance to the castle is by a causeway on its farther side, the entrance itself being protected by a triple portcullis. Additional defence was provided by the square towers, as seen in the picture, in the centre of each of the wails.

ON A CLIFF ABOVE THE ARUN

ARUNDEL CASTLE, the modern seat of the Dukes of Norfolk, was one of the line of Norman castles built soon after the Conquest to defend the strategic points where the rivers of Sussex burst through the South Downs. There was one at Lewes guarding the Ouse gap, one at Bramber guarding the Adur gap and one at Arundel guarding the Arun gap, the latter by far the most important of the three in Norman times. In the eleventh and twelfth centuries the greater part of the Weald of Sussex was covered with forest and only slightly under Norman influence, while the coastal country was comparatively thickly peopled and prosperous. One of the purposes of these castles, therefore, was to ward off attacks on the coastal plain by Saxon bands who had taken refuge among the forests of the weald. As the photograph shows, the position chosen for the castle was well situated for defence, on a low cliff rising abruptly from the water-meadows of the Arun. The first castle, of which the ruins of the keep remain, was granted to Roger de Montgomery, who came to England in the year after the Battle of Hastings. A descendant of Roger rebelled against Henry I and the castle was escheated to the Crown for a time. In the sixteenth century it passed by marriage to the Howard family, the hereditary Dukes of Norfolk. The most dramatic happening in its whole history was when it was held for the King in the Civil War and reduced by General Waller. The castle was rebuilt in the nineteenth century.

THE CASTLE OF PEVENSEY

THIS is a castle within a castle, the ruins of a Norman fortress within the ruins of one of the Roman Forts of the Saxon Shore. The lower photograph shows the main entrance gateway to the Roman fort and portrays vividly the immense strength of the Roman building with its courses of thin red bricks binding together the stonework of the wall and turret. The upper photograph shows part of the medieval stronghold with the remains of its moat and, in the background, part of the Roman wall. Of the Norman castle little of the original fabric has survived; most of what can be seen in the photograph dates from the reign of Edward I, when the castle was strengthened and largely rebuilt. Notice the slender arrow-slits in the wall, designed so that the defenders could aim their arrows at attackers but would be safe from arrows shot by the enemy bowmen.

HERSTMONCEUX CASTLE

AT FIRST glance to a visitor looking across the still well-filled moat it seems as though Herstmonceux was a castle from the Middle Ages almost untouched by the lapse of time. Alas for romance! Both inferences are inaccurate. The appearance deceives in two ways. First, the castle walls conceal an interior which though now rebuilt does not belong to the original building, and second, the apparently strong defences, including the fine medieval gateway and towers and turrets around the sides of the castle, were never intended for warlike purposes. The building is of brick and one of the earliest brick-built residences in Britain. Started about 1440, it is comparable with Layer Marney Towers and Tattershall Castle (pages 20 and 63). The fifteenth century was one in which internal peace was confidently expected in Britain, so that the need for strongly fortified manor-houses had ceased to exist, but the show of battlements was retained, one can only surmise, for decorative purposes in keeping with the tradition set by the fortified mansions of earlier times. The builder of Herstmonceux was one Roger de Fiennes, whose arms are seen in the detail (*top, right*), taken from the upper part of the gate-house, which is flanked with towers, octagonal in the lower storey and circular above. Beneath the arms on the extreme right of

the upper photograph is the sup-
porter of the shield, a wolf-dog.
Herstmonceux Castle continued as a
residence without interruption until
the middle of the eighteenth century.
Horace Walpole describes the glories
of the house in the middle of this
century. Fifty years later the castle
had been stripped, leaving only the
walls intact, and the material used to
build nearby Herstmonceux Place.
It was not until the beginning of the
present century that a new owner
refurnished the interior in the style
of a modern mansion; in recent years
this has become the home of the Royal
Observatory, moved from Greenwich.

RUINS OF COWDRAY

THE ruins of Cowdray, situated near Midhurst, are of a Tudor manor-house, once the home of Sir Anthony Browne, Lord of Battle. It was destroyed by fire in 1793, thus fulfilling a curse laid on Sir Anthony Browne by the monks of Battle that his house and his descendants should be destroyed by fire and water; for in the same year as Cowdray was burnt the last of the Browne family, Viscount Montague, was drowned in the Rhine. The great house has never been rebuilt. All that survives are the walls, with many windows containing beautiful tracery, and the old kitchen which escaped destruction in the fire. The photographs show (*left*) part of the walls of the main building and (*below*) the third and fourth arches of the hexagonal Tudor kitchen. The refectory table and benches are the type commonly used in Tudor times.

THE KEEP OF PORTCHESTER

THERE was a Roman fortress at Portchester contemporary with the other Forts of the Saxon Shore, whose purpose was to defend Britain from Saxon pirates. The Roman defences here were sufficiently complete even by the eleventh century for the Normans to make them an outer defence for one of their own castles. The photograph shows the keep and part of the surrounding buildings of the Norman castle, which was probably at first rather lightly constructed and took the form that we see today in the reign of Henry II.

OCKWELLS, BERKSHIRE

BERKSHIRE has comparatively few castles, apart from Windsor Castle, but for compensation has a number of medieval manor-houses. Ockwells, pictured above, is a beautiful fifteenth-century timbered house with Tudor additions. The photograph shows fine oriel windows.

CARISBROOKE CASTLE, IN THE ISLE OF WIGHT

THE great mound on which the medieval keep stands was probably part of a Saxon fortress, while the keep itself shows all the signs of Norman construction. It was here that Charles I was imprisoned for the greater part of 1648, shortly before his execution in January, 1649.

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WILTSHIRE MANOR-HOUSES

LACOCK ABBEY (*left*) and Longleat (*below*) are two of the most interesting of Wiltshire's many late medieval manor-houses. Lacock was originally a nunnery founded by the Augustinian Order in the thirteenth century. The nunnery did not outlive the dissolution of the monasteries and part of the abbey buildings became a private residence. Notice the beauty of the moulded chimneys and the elegance of the doorways and the tracery of the windows. Longleat differs from Lacock and many others of the great houses of the south in having no history of earlier buildings on its site; it was constructed towards the end of the sixteenth century by Sir John Thynne, whose descendants in direct line of succession still dwell in it. The vast house typifies the elaborate architectural themes introduced by Renaissance architects during the reign of Elizabeth and later.

IN GREAT CHALFIELD MANOR-HOUSE

THIS is another of the interesting group of early manor-houses in Wiltshire. It was built in the fifteenth century; its hall, pictured above, has changed little in the intervening five hundred years. It shows an intriguing combination of stonework and carved woodwork and panelling. The Tudor period was above all others a transitional one in the building of great houses. The Gothic style of building persisted, but side by side with it there was an increasing tendency to adapt the classical ideas of the Renaissance. The mixed Gothic and Renaissance ideas continued side by side, often in the same house, until at least the end of the sixteenth century; it was not really until the genius of Sir Christopher Wren had infused the Renaissance designs with a new life that the traditional forms were entirely superseded. So the windows of Great Chalfield and also the fireplace, restored in keeping with the character of the house, show clearly the persistence of the Gothic ideas in direct contrast with the classical symmetry of Longleat (*opposite*), built only about a century later. The gallery shown at the end of the hall derives from the minstrels' galleries which formed a part of all the later castles and manor-houses, as illustrated in Penshurst Place.

SCARBOROUGH CASTLE, FORTRESS ON THE COAST OF YORKSHIRE

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The North Country

THE heritage of medieval building in the North Country is unevenly distributed, but of great variety and interest. The great county of Yorkshire contains among its castles some of the most interesting in the whole of Britain. Similarly, though some of the counties of the North Midlands such as Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire possess few ruins of note, there is compensation in the very large number of the ruined castles and mansions of Northumberland.

It is, of course, no mere chance which has led to this uneven distribution. The cause is the equivocal position which was held by the North Country in the realm of the English kings and its special position as a buffer in the long struggle between England and Scotland and, in the case of Cheshire, between England and Wales.

Though Nottinghamshire possessed few castles, there was one, at least, of first importance in the county town. This started as a fortress under the Norman kings and ended its military career with great distinction in the course of the Civil War, when Nottingham was the place chosen by Charles I in 1642 to muster his armies. The castle was captured by the rebel forces of Cromwell under the infamous Colonel Hutchinson the following year.

In the Castle of the High Peak Derbyshire has a ruin which, though it is insignificant in size by comparison with some of the larger castles of England, has at least no rival in its romantic situation, perched high on a forbidding cliff which is almost unclimbable. Again, Derbyshire's medieval splendour is amply reflected in its elegant and elaborate mansions, several of which, including Haddon Hall, have continued to be dwelt in through the centuries yet still retain part of the fabric built nearly six hundred years ago.

South Wingfield manor-house, too, is in Derbyshire. It is a lesson in the art and practice of building the early fortified houses which were capable of withstanding attack from wandering brigands, but looked to the garrison of the nearest castle for protection in case of more serious assault. South Wingfield is a fine example of a type more common in Yorkshire than in any other part of Britain. The reason for this, too, is easy to comprehend even through the mists which enshroud the passage of six hundred years or more. The fertile country of Yorkshire—the fat central Vale of York and the narrow valleys which reach out into the heart of the moorland country—was never so settled as the South Country. Removed from the seat of government by what in those times was a journey of

days and depending for military protection on the succour of the nearest great baron, who might himself be embarrassed by enemies around him, the smaller landholders naturally built for themselves houses which could sustain attack from any unorganized band of rebels, whether they came from their retreats in the moors of Yorkshire itself or on a long-distance foray from the Border country.

It is no matter for surprise, therefore, that of the more than sixty castles of which there are traces in Yorkshire the majority are manor-houses fortified in accordance with the traditions of the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, mostly protected by an encircling wall and towers and perhaps by a moat as well.

Yorkshire, however, has several genuine castles which combine historic interest with fine building. In many respects the Norman castle of Richmond is one of the finest in the whole country; its position on a rocky crag rising straight from the river below is as arresting as any. It still dominates the town beneath it and is a dominant feature of every view in the surrounding district. There are also Norman castles at Scarborough and Middleham.

Yorkshire, too, is proud of Conisborough, an interesting late Norman castle. It has a circular keep protected by a number of flanking turrets and is reckoned to have been as strong in defence as the far more forbidding early Norman keeps, in spite of its more modest appearance and greater elegance.

And so to Durham and Northumberland, which bore the full brunt of the border strife from long before the Norman entry into Britain until long after the formal union between England and Scotland. The Normans knew well that their task in this important part of Britain would be a hard one. They knew, too, that, unless the danger of attack could be contained, the prosperity of the whole northern part of England would be in jeopardy. They therefore planned a succession of fortresses to guard the traditional route to Edinburgh, running from Newcastle near the east coast to the border at Berwick. The New Castle, which gave Newcastle its name, was one of these. Bamburgh was another, Norham a third.

The castles of the north road were supplemented by a large number of small castles, the counterparts of the Yorkshire fortified manor-houses but more strongly defended and in the case of those nearest the border destined to change hands many times. These miniature castles were still being built in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. In all, including the thirty-five or so peel towers, there were probably over a hundred buildings that could rightly be called castles in Northumberland during the fourteenth century.

On the other side of the Pennines, in Cumberland and Westmorland and in Lancashire, the story was much the same. There was one strong fortress at Carlisle, another at Lancaster and a number of smaller fortified houses linked with them by bonds of self-protection as well as loyalty.

THE CASTLE OF DURHAM

MANY of Durham's old buildings—the castle, seen here, the cathedral and the surrounding dwelling places—are situated on a rocky peninsula formed by a bend of the River Wear. The oldest part of the castle dates from the early years of the Norman Conquest, but, like so many others, it was rebuilt a century later and became the seat of Bishops of Durham.

GUARDING THE BORDER COUNTRY

NORTHUMBERLAND is unusually rich in medieval castles because of its proximity to the Scottish border and the need that existed through the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries to defend the coast road and the fertile valleys from the ravages of border raids. Bamburgh Castle (*above*) is the most magnificent of the Norman castles built along the coast. Set on a vast basalt rock it still proclaims its invincibility. The only part of the castle which is genuinely medieval is the square Norman keep, pictured in the photograph. Many of the rest of the buildings are comparatively modern, while the walls and towers

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of the outer defences were drastically altered when the castle was rebuilt in the eighteenth century. Norham Castle (*bottom, left*), on the south bank of the River Tweed, is another of the Norman keeps which were built to ensure the lines of communication with Scotland. Its date is about the same as that of the keep of Bamburgh. It was held as a border fortress for many centuries by the Bishops of Durham, whose authority extended from the Palatine City itself up to and beyond the Scottish border. Dacre Castle (*bottom, right*), near Penrith in Cumberland, another county with many small but interesting castles, was one of the many which guarded the more fertile lands of Cumberland.

ALNWICK CASTLE

SINCE the beginning of the fourteenth century Alnwick Castle has been the ancestral seat of the Percy family. Prior to that it was for some time held in trust by the Bishop Palatine of Durham, and before that again was held by a succession of the warlike Norman lords whom King William I and his successors set over the more distant parts of Britain. As soon as the settlement of England by the Normans was complete the defences of Alnwick, as of the other military strongholds of the north-east coast approaching the Scottish border, were strengthened and there was a notable castle built by the first half of the twelfth century on the low artificial mound which appears in the photograph. Very little of that early fortress remains, for when the estate was purchased by the Percy family in 1309 the keep was rebuilt and the outer fortifications were renewed. For two hundred years the castle of the Percys flourished, but then it fell into ruins and was allowed to moulder away. It was extensively restored in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

MANOR-HOUSES OF THE NORTH

STONE and timber are the keynotes of these two contrasting manor-houses, Markenfield Hall (*right*) in Yorkshire, and Bramhall Hall (*below*) in Cheshire. They represent the two characteristic building materials of the North Country—stone in all the Pennine country and the greater part of the area east of the Pennines, timber in Cheshire and the Marcher country generally, where local building stone was not obtainable. Markenfield Hall is one of the many small fortified manor-houses of the North Country where even relatively unimportant dwelling places were defended. It dates from the fourteenth century, though greatly modified and altered at various times. Bramhall Hall, on the other hand, was built at a time when there was every prospect of a peaceful life in the north as well as the south. It was completed towards the end of the fifteenth century, though extensive additions in harmony with its earlier plan were made in Elizabethan days. The façade is seen here.

A RUINED CASTLE OF NORTHUMBERLAND

WARKWORTH is a little grey town near the coast of Northumberland, a few miles to the south of Alnwick. It thus forms one of the line of early fortified settlements guarding the main road from Newcastle to Berwick, which followed much the same course as the present east-coast railway. The ruined castle, pictured above, stands on a small hill at one end of the main street of a town which literally grew up under its shadow and in its protection. The castle fortifications were rather later than those at Alnwick or Bamburgh, for there is no record of them until about 1200. It may be assumed that it was one of the many castles built about that time to strengthen existing defences in the north-eastern counties. Warkworth has a link with Alnwick because like Alnwick it passed into the hands of the Percy family, who bought it from Edward III in 1328. For two hundred and fifty years its fame in the north was little less than that of Alnwick; it continued as a residence of the Percy family until the beginning of the seventeenth century, when there are references to the ruinous condition of the towers. In 1672 large quantities of lead, timber and other material were removed to build a manor-house at Chirton in the same county. The most interesting feature of the ruins is the keep, seen on the right of the photograph. This is cruciform in plan. The date of its construction was probably the first part of the fifteenth century, thus making it one of the latest castle keeps in England. In 1922 the ruins of this remarkable castle were entrusted by the Duke of Northumberland to H.M. Commissioners of Works.

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IN TATTERSHALL CASTLE

TATTERSHALL CASTLE in Lincolnshire, famous for its lofty brick-built tower (page 63), was built in the fifteenth century by Lord Cromwell, Henry VI's Treasurer. It contains some extremely interesting details of stone carving. This fireplace on the third floor, with its elegant flattened arch and charming foliation, has above it contemporary carving of a very high standard. Among the details can be seen the Cromwell "weed" and the Treasurer's purse. There are similar splendid fireplaces in the great chambers of other storeys of the tower.

IN RIPLEY CASTLE

THE development of the fireplace from the fourteenth-century open hearth to the elaborate carved ornamented designs of the Elizabethan period makes a fascinating study in itself. This stone-built fireplace is from the tower room in Ripley Castle, Yorkshire, and was constructed about a century after that at Tattershall Castle (*above*). Notice the similarity in the shape of the surround and the contrast between the plain panelling of Ripley and the elaborate carving of Tattershall. This is what would be expected in one of the smaller fortified residences of a county less well endowed then than Lincolnshire.

IN NEWCASTLE CRYPT

THE crypt, or basement, of the castle at Newcastle-upon-Tyne is interesting because it is one of the few remaining vaulted Norman buildings apart from the great churches. It is vaulted from a single central column. The fireplace shown is probably a more modern interpolation in a chamber which is otherwise almost entirely as the Normans left it, though even in Norman times the wall "fireplace" was an occasional alternative to the more popular central open hearth.

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CASTLES OF YORKSHIRE

IN NORMAN times Yorkshire was divided even more sharply than it is today between the thinly peopled area of the Pennines and Yorkshire moors and the more thickly populated and prosperous districts of the Vale of York and the vales which extend eastward and westward from it. Norman sovereignty was fairly readily accepted in the lowlands, and Norman lords were established in comparative peace by the beginning of the twelfth century in places as far apart as York and Richmond. The security of the Normans themselves, however, and of the descendants of the Saxon agriculturists who tilled the land under their protection was still exposed to the danger of raids from the part of the population which defied the new government. The answer of the government was to redouble its efforts to build castles so that adequate garrisons could be available to protect the neighbouring land. Conisborough (*bottom, left*) is one of the most magnificent of these more elaborate castles. It is technically known as a Juliet to distinguish it from the square and shell keeps common in Norman fortresses; of its kind it is the finest in Britain. It is really a circular fortress defended by a succession of flanking turrets. A few castles such as Conisborough could achieve a great deal, but their value was enhanced by the construction of a number of smaller castles along the Yorkshire dales and in the valleys under the Yorkshire moors about the same time. Helmsley Castle (*top, left*) was one of these. It was begun towards the end of the twelfth century by the local baron, Robert de Roos, as something between a castle and a fortified manor-house and was completed about the middle of the following century. It contains Norman and early Gothic features.

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BOLTON CASTLE

THIS beautiful and beautifully situated castle carries on the story of English history where Conisborough and Helmsley (*opposite*) leave it. It was only in special circumstances that licences were granted by the Crown to fortify new sites as late as the end of the fourteenth century. Bolton, like Bodiam in the south (page 37), was an exception to the general rule. Even in 1379 when it was begun there was no absolute assurance of peace in the northern Marches; though Bolton stands out as the only extensive and magnificently conceived castle of the time in Yorkshire, there are a number of other fortified dwellings on a smaller scale of about the same time. Bolton's strength, as can be inferred from the picturesque ruins, was in its outer walls and the angle towers which allowed each of the walls to be covered by a cross-fire, thus making it almost impossible for an attacking force to approach as long as the garrison was on the alert. It was a sumptuous dwelling place as well as a castle and was the ancestral home of a famous Yorkshire family, the Scropes, until the seventeenth century. After that it began to fall into disrepair and time has done as much to undermine its walls as Cromwell's soldiers did to destroy the castles in the south.

RICHMOND CASTLE

THE River Swale flows over a rocky bed in the foreground of the picture. Behind, finely placed on a natural hill, stands the embattled pile of Richmond Castle, one of the earliest of the Norman fortresses in the north and one which was used with York as a main base for the policy of pacification pursued throughout the twelfth century. The square Norman keep is seen on the left. The whole area of the castle hill was encircled by a strong wall enclosing a spacious ward, the keep as in most of the early Norman castles being regarded only as the "home" of the constable of the castle and a last refuge for the garrison. Little, however, remains of this outer wall in its original form, though some of the original Norman masonry has survived. The name Richmond, like Newcastle, derives from the castle, for the Normans gave it the title Riche Mont. Richmond, Surrey, is named after it.
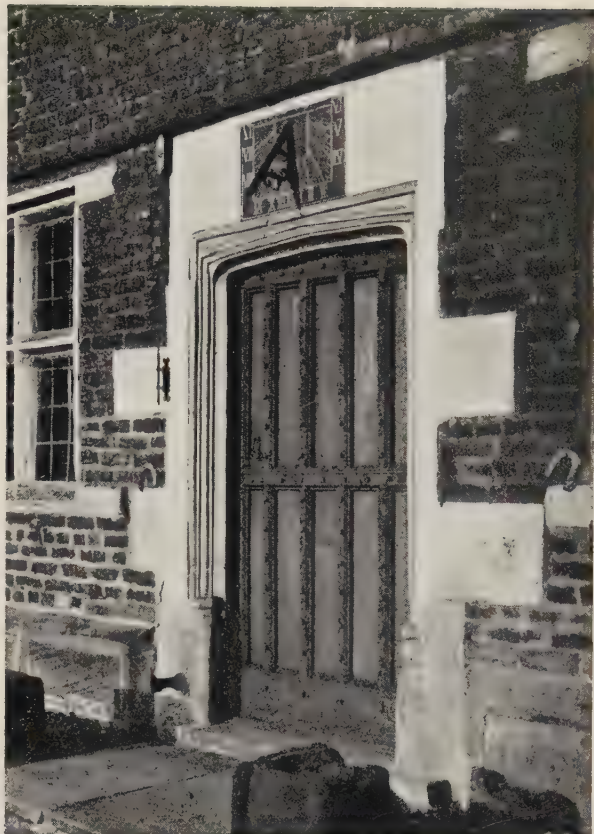
CHANGING FASHIONS IN DOORWAYS

THESE three pictures show stages in the evolution of the medieval doorway, a feature of buildings which received special attention. The earliest of the three examples shown is that in the ruins of Helmsley Castle (*bottom, right*). Here the plain rounded arch and unadorned stone slabs of the surround are in keeping with the severity of a building which was raised almost entirely for its military usefulness. Above are shown, on the left, the doorhead of Hewthwaite Hall in Cumberland and, on the right, the main doorway of Clarke Hall in Yorkshire. The elaborate carving, including the coat of arms of the former, is characteristic of many of the early doorways, while the moulded surround and classical features of Clarke Hall are clearly contemporary with the mid-sixteenth-century house.

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THE DEFENCES OF YORK

IN THE province of Roman Britain York was the most important town in the north and had some of the most extensive mural defences in the world. The medieval builders strengthened what was left of the Roman walls and built them up in parts to form the defences of the growing city, but the Roman multi-angular tower (*bottom, left*) was left almost intact. In the Middle Ages York was again the chief town of the north of England and in addition to its walls was defended by two castles, of which the larger included the keep set on an artificial mound shown above. This stone tower dates from the mid-thirteenth century.

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BRICK-BUILT KEEP OF LINCOLNSHIRE

TATTERSHALL CASTLE is usually described as one of the earliest brick-built residences erected in Britain, after the Roman age. Its keep rises a hundred and ten feet, the walls being twenty feet thick at the base. The first castle here was begun about 1230. The castle was rebuilt with the addition of the keep, seen here, about 1440 by Ralph, third Lord Cromwell.

CASTLE OF THE HIGH PEAK

SET in one of the most beautiful situations of any of the English castles, this ruined tower is all that remains of the once mighty fortress of the High Peak in Derbyshire, a castle started by William Peverel in the days of William II and completed in the twelfth century by Robert de Ferrers, the virtual overlord of the Peak district and of the whole of Derbyshire. The Castle of the Peak soon passed to the Crown and it was here in 1157 that Henry II received a formal oath of loyalty from King Malcolm of Scotland. In 1342 the castle was given to John of Gaunt and thus became part of the duchy of Lancaster. The outer wall which follows the line of the hill escarpment probably belongs to the first castle of William Peverel, but the tower formed part of de Ferrers' stronghold. Even now, when the levelling effect of weather has decreased the steepness of the hillside, the castle's position is almost impregnable. In this respect it is comparable with Harlech (page 107).

BEAUTY OF ANCIENT CEILINGS

THE roofs of medieval castles and the earliest manor-houses were plain and unadorned. English woodcarving did not come into its own until the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, which was the period of magnificent carved wooden roofs, including the angel roofs of the late Gothic churches. Later the craft of the woodcarvers gave way to plaster decoration which in the Renaissance homes and especially those of the seventeenth century and onwards was often most elaborate. The two examples of plaster decoration on ceilings shown on this page are the pendentive ceiling at Gilling Castle in Yorkshire, a noble work carried out about 1570, and the honeysuckle ceiling in the Queen's Bedroom at Burton Agnes in the same county, fashioned about 1600. Notice an earlier fresco on the wall at Gilling.

THE LONG GALLERY AT HADDON HALL

A MAGNIFICENT medieval home now beautifully restored, Haddon Hall shows features of almost every period of English architecture. The Long Gallery (*below*) is one of the later additions to the Hall and shows the influence of classical ideas which impinged on building technique from Tudor times onwards. The gallery was completed in the sixteenth century, the present panelling and the ceiling being contemporary. Haddon, the ancestral seat of the Dukes of Rutland, is not only a storehouse of medieval architecture, including a little that is Norman, much that is Gothic, and still more that is Renaissance; it is also a house whose story is an epitome of English history. It was not built as a castle, yet it was a residence at a time when the era of castle building was still in full swing. It suffered few depredations from the various civil wars and the wars with Scotland. Moreover it has always been held by families of wealth as well as renown, so that expense has never been spared to keep the old parts in constant repair and to add new buildings of dignity and charm in accordance with the changing fashions of the age. Finally, and perhaps most important of all, it escaped the Victorian deluge of renovators who in their well-meant endeavours despoiled many of Britain's loveliest residences. The first family to hold Haddon were the Avenells. In the twelfth century the Vernons acquired it by marriage. For four centuries afterwards there was always a Vernon in residence, the last of the line being Sir George Vernon, aptly nicknamed "King of the Peak." Dorothy Vernon, Sir George's daughter, married Sir John Manners, from whom were descended in direct line of succession the Dukes of Rutland, who have held the ancient house until modern times.
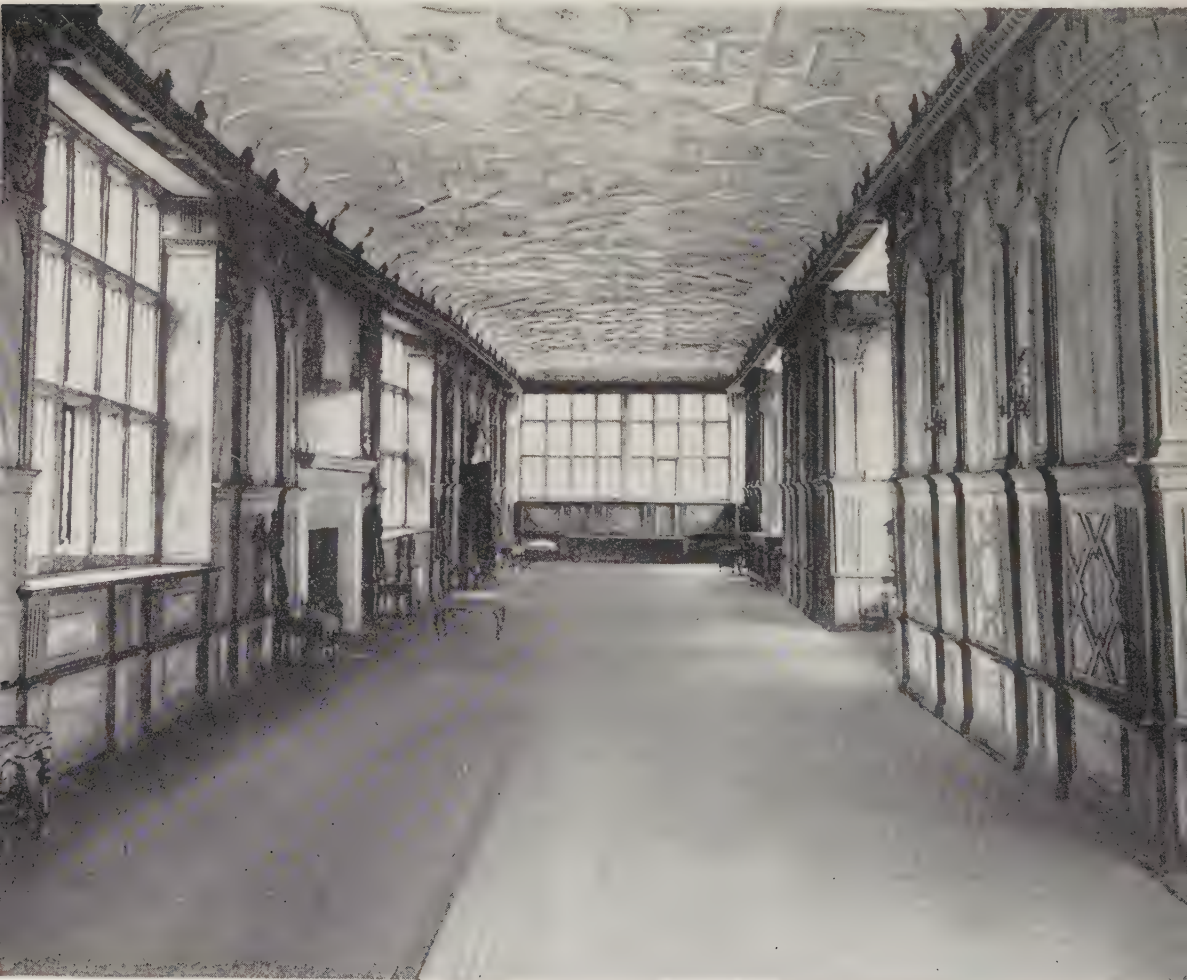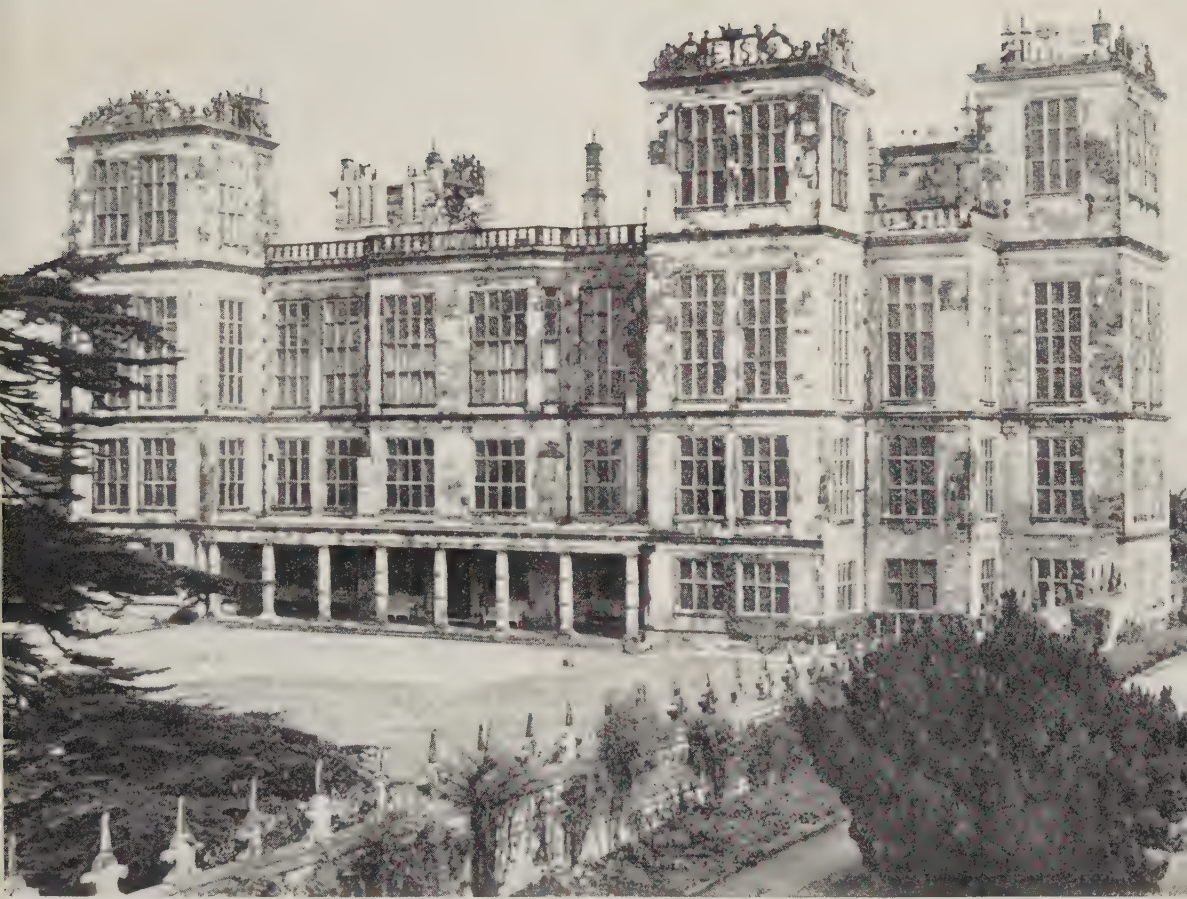
HARDWICK HALL

FEW counties, and not another of Derbyshire's size, possess a heritage of two such historic and magnificent houses as Haddon Hall (*opposite*) and Hardwick Hall (*above*). Yet Hardwick is very different in character from Haddon, a house certainly of wealth and magnificence and with much beautiful Elizabethan decoration in the interior but without the charm of Haddon Hall. Its stone façade, if not lifeless, is at least somewhat forbidding and in this respect is reputed to resemble the character of Elizabeth, Countess of Shrews-bury, "Bess of Hardwick," who financed it and is said to have suggested its architecture. The date of its building was the last decade of the sixteenth century, when some of the finest of the Elizabethan mansions were being built, many of them in a modified form of the traditional English Tudor, others like Hardwick setting a new standard of design which shows the conservatism of Gothic modified by the ideas of the classical Renaissance. So in this great façade over two hundred feet long the colonnade is essentially Italian in concept and classical in design, while the strong parallel lines of the window frames suggest nothing so vividly as they do the façade of some late Perpendicular parish churches. There is an old saying, "Hardwick Hall, more glass than wall," a saying which in fact represents the literal truth, and in respect of which Hardwick has no competitor. There is no gate-house, but in the two projecting wings on either side of the entrance hall there is the suggestion of the E-shape which was adopted in many Elizabethan mansions.

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WESTWOOD MANOR, WORCESTERSHIRE

The Midlands

IT IS often said that the Midland counties are uncommonly poor in the number and size of their medieval castles. It is certainly true that some of the counties of Midland England never had very many castles in the Middle Ages compared with such areas as the Welsh Marches and the Border country. It is also true that time seems to have treated more harshly the few that survived to the end of the Civil War, but that is because the majority were less massive than the great fortresses of the south and west and also because most of the larger ones were in the county towns. With castles, as with abbeys, those situated in growing towns had less chance of survival as ruins than isolated fortresses, for the simple reason that builders of the seventeenth century and onwards regarded their walls as a source of supply of raw material.

If we seek a reason for the comparatively few castles built in the Midland counties we shall find that it followed inevitably from their geographical position. The need to build strong castles for the barons set over the Midlands by William the Conqueror and his successors was fulfilled. These for the most part were in the county towns, or, to put the same thing in another way, they were built in positions which were the natural centres of commerce and productive activity, so that the county towns naturally grew up round them in the security which their protection offered. As, however, the Midlands were far from any vulnerable part of the realm they have no counterpart of the number of castles set back a few miles from the coast of Kent and Sussex, for instance, or of the numerous fortresses and fortified dwelling places of Northumberland and the Welsh Marches.

When we survey the Midlands county by county we find that Bedfordshire is alone among English counties in having no castle of which there are substantial remains. The only important one in the county was in Bedford, and this has disappeared almost entirely apart from the mound on which it was built. Oxfordshire had a larger number of medieval fortified houses, but they all appear insignificant when compared with the castle of Oxford, a Norman castle which had a long and honourable history both as a castle and as a palace.

In Northamptonshire there were castles along the valley of the Nene and that of the Welland, including one which progressed beyond the stage of castle and became a noble home of later times, Fotheringhay. In the valley of the Welland are the ruins of Rockingham, one of the most picturesque groups in the county, partly because of the beautiful colouring of its mellow stone.

In the heart of the Midlands, in Leicestershire and the neighbouring Wolds, there was an added deterrent to castle building, for all this country was under the aegis of the Earl of Leicester who in the twelfth century came to an agreement with the equally powerful Earl of Chester (all of whose energies were directed against the Welsh) not to build new castles or to fortify sites for any other reason than local protection. This pact between two of the most powerful landholders in the kingdom, fostered by the natural dislike of King Henry II and his successors for the multiplication of castles which might become strongholds in any rebellion against the royal power, effectively set a limit to the number of castles and also to the number of fortified houses. For compensation there is the unique Norman castle hall at Oakham and a very fine group of buildings at Kirby Muxloe.

Warwickshire can claim with reason to have some of the finest castles in all England, including two that are unique, Kenilworth and Warwick. Both show traces of rebuilding and enlargement in many centuries, the former now in ruins, the latter a mansion with a still medieval appearance, the former especially famous for its magnificence under the Earl of Leicester in the days of Queen Elizabeth.

Even though the Midlands may have less interest than some other parts of Britain in the ruins of medieval castles, they have ample compensation in the number and splendour of their manor-houses, some of which date from the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, when manor-houses as distinct from castles were first being built in numbers, others only starting their career in Elizabethan or Jacobean times.

The earliest form of the manor-house was the "hall-home," consisting of a gate-house, a court-yard and the great hall, with any other buildings entirely subsidiary. The Old Grange at Broadway is one of many which were first built at least as early as the fourteenth century, while there is a link with still earlier times in the Norman hall of Oakham, which is called a castle but much more closely resembles a manor-house than a castle.

Tudor building is well represented. The Bishop's Palace at Thame illustrates the new fashion in building which was destined utterly to change the face of the English home from Tudor times onwards, while Huddington Manor in Worcestershire is a perfect example of an interesting facet of Tudor building, the use of moulded chimneys grouped together as a part of the decoration of the façade.

And so on to the Renaissance with its greater building control and its desertion of the informal designs of the Tudor and Elizabethan manor in favour of the splendid but rather set forms of classical ornament. The two styles overlap. Hardwick Hall is the best possible illustration of the marrying of the two styles. There is no longer a gate-house, the court-yard is no longer enclosed, but instead there are wings built out at right-angles to the hall.

DUDLEY CASTLE

DUDLEY CASTLE has been in turn a medieval stronghold and more recently a private residence. The keep in the foreground is of the fourteenth century, while the greater part of the domestic buildings seen in the background was added in the sixteenth century.

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WARWICK CASTLE

MIRRORED in the placid waters of the Avon, the feudal splendour of Warwick's castle is seen to best advantage from the bridge which carries the main road across the river. There was a Norman castle at Warwick, but only the mound of this fortification has survived. Most of the residence of today, the home of the Earls of Warwick, was built in the time of Lord Brooke, a nobleman who held office under Queen Elizabeth and King James I, though part of the exterior belongs to the fifteenth century. During the Civil War the castle was held by the Roundheads and stoutly withstood long siege by Royalist forces.

WHERE LEICESTER ENTERTAINED QUEEN ELIZABETH

SIR WALTER SCOTT immortalized the story of Kenilworth Castle at the time of its greatest magnificence, when in 1575 the Earl of Leicester, paying court to Queen Elizabeth, entertained her so sumptuously that he is said to have nearly beggared himself in the process. 1120 was the date of the foundation of the castle. The photograph above shows the Norman keep which was strengthened in the time of John of Gaunt, having before then been held by Simon de Montfort in his war against Henry III. In 1562 Queen Elizabeth gave the castle to Robert Dudley, who added many buildings, a fragment of which is shown on right. The Civil War brought an end to the story of Kenilworth, for the forces of Parliament slighted the fortifications and they became ruinous.

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COMPTON WYNYATES IN THE WOLD

MANY who make numerous journeys in England and many students of architecture, too, regard the many manor-houses of the Cotswolds as consistently the finest in the whole country, judging them from the standpoints of beauty and enduring interest. Compton Wynyates (*below*) in Warwickshire is an outstanding Cotswold manor. Though it has battlemented towers it was built solely as a manor-house and never had any military pretensions. It is in fact a Tudor house with some few later additions and it represents the very finest architecture of the first half of the sixteenth century. Its builder was Sir William Compton. At a time when English building showed the conflict between the Gothic styles which had been paramount in the great era of church building and the classical ideas of the Renaissance, Compton Wynyates is determinedly Tudor Gothic rather than Tudor Renaissance. There are features, such as the graceful chimney-stacks and the detail of the gate-house seen on the left of the photograph, which did show signs of the coming revolution in design, but the style of the windows with their perpendicular tracery is definitely Gothic, while the dormer windows and many other external features represent the development of English house-building in Tudor times. A topiary garden is seen.

WOLLATON HALL, NOTTINGHAM

HERE is the perfect contrast with Compton Wynyates. Only fifty years later in date, it illustrates the transition from early Tudor to Elizabethan, from the traditional Gothic style to the new Italian Renaissance manner. The most obvious point of distinction in the exterior is the regularity of the windows. Here at Wollaton, as in most of the other great mansions of the age, they are in parallel rows and form a definitive part of the façade; sometimes, as at Hardwick (page 67), giving the impression of there being more glass than house. Hardwick indeed makes an interesting comparison with Wollaton, more on account of its similarities than its differences. The next most obvious feature is the appearance of classical ornament in the vigorous use of the classical column, sometimes by modern standards of taste a rather inappropriate use. There are columns flanking the main windows and round-arched recesses between the columns in several places—a typical Renaissance fancy. The highly ornamental embellishment at the summit of the towers is also based on interpretations of classical moulding, while the chimneys, so striking a feature in the "English" style, take on an entirely different character in the new Renaissance design. The terrace overlooking the park is another feature often noted in contemporary houses. For the first time house and park are designed as one and the house from one point of view is a feature of a much wider essay in landscape gardening. Here at Wollaton there is a magnificent avenue of limes and a park which is more than one square mile in extent.

MAXSTOKE CASTLE

THIS spectacular fourteenth-century fortified house has all the essential features of the last phase of medieval castles but without any of the strong defences of early fortresses.
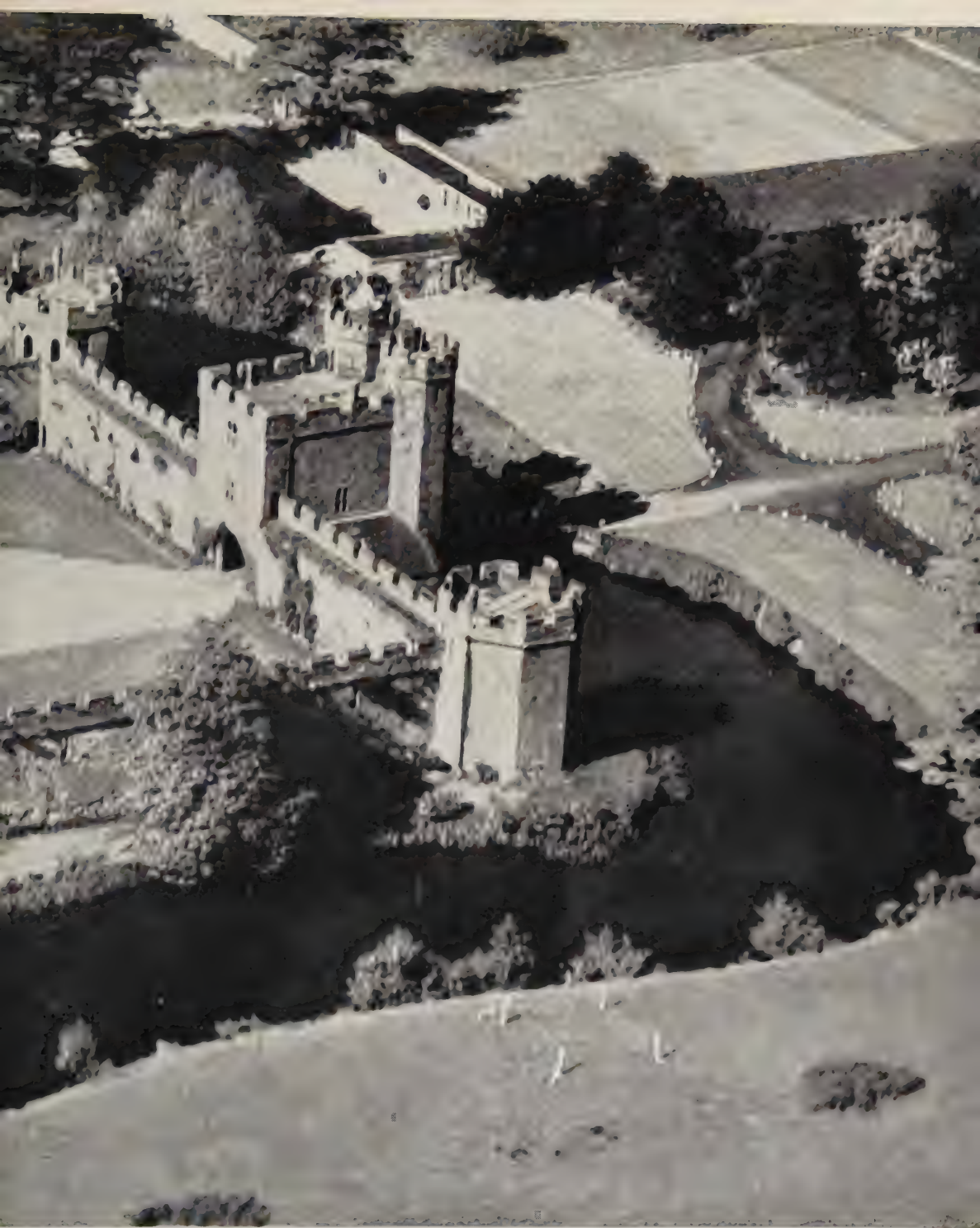
WARWICKSHIRE

Notice the gate-house on the right which juts out into the well-filled moat and is itself protected by twin towers, also the four large towers at the corners of the castle wall.

THE MAIN GATE AND WARD OF NEWARK

NEWARK-ON-TRENT, historic town of the Midlands, has been from time immemorial a vital stronghold commanding lines of communication from north to south. There were a town and some fortifications here in the reign of Edward the Confessor, but it was in the reign of King Stephen that Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln, built the strong fortress of which the substantial remains shown above have survived. It was of little avail that Bishop Alexander built his castle. His action so incensed the King that he was imprisoned until he agreed to forfeit to the Crown this and several other castles which he had built. In the struggle between King John and the barons the castle was a cockpit of fighting, and it was here that the King died. In the Civil War Newark was obstinately loyalist. The castle was besieged by the Parliamentary forces three times and every time withstood the siege. At the end of the war the commander surrendered it at the King's command.

FAMOUS MIDLAND HOMES

NEITHER Ashby de la Zouch, of which a corner of the medieval kitchen is shown (*right*), nor Oakham (*below*) are castles in the strict sense of the term, though both are called castles. That of Ashby de la Zouch had only a short history. It was not built until the fifteenth century and then as a fortified manor rather than as a castle, while at the close of the Civil War less than two hundred years later its battlements were stripped and its fabric started to decay. Oakham Castle (*below*) was also a fortified manor rather than a fortress. The hall built in Norman times is seen here. Around the walls of the hall are hung a number of horseshoes, including some given by kings and queens of England. This wonderful collection is the outcome of an ancient custom whereby a horseshoe is claimed from any peer of the realm who visits the castle at Oakham for the first time.

ST. MICHAEL'S MOUNT

PHOTOGRAPHED from Mount's Bay, the romantic buildings of St. Michael's Mount are a fitting crown for the rocky islet which rises to a height of nearly 250 feet and closely resembles Mont St. Michel off the coast of France. The early story of the Mount was a religious one, for there was an offshoot here of the Benedictine monastery of St. Michel in the reign of Edward the Confessor. Thereafter for many centuries there were a monastic house and castle side by side, new fortifications being added to the castle from time to time. In the Civil War it put up a gallant struggle on behalf of the King. After the end of the Civil War it continued as a residence and became the seat of the St. Aubyns.

The West Country

HISTORICALLY the position of the West Country is complementary to that of the south-eastern counties. In Roman and medieval times it was one of the districts farthest removed from the threat of invasion and it was also an area to which successive conquerors, Romans, Saxons and Normans, did not penetrate until they were firmly established in the east.

Its castles, therefore, tell a story which is different in many essentials from that told by the medieval castles of eastern and south-eastern England. The western counties, for instance, have no counterpart of the Forts of the Saxon Shore, partly because the Saxon marauders rarely trusted their longboats to such a lengthy voyage and partly because Devon and Cornwall remained largely Celtic in character, as independent of the government of Roman Britain as were western Wales and the greater part of Scotland.

When we turn to modern times we find precisely the same difference. The West Country has no counterpart of the martello towers, for it did not occur to anyone that the Napoleonic armies might sail to the south-west. There are, however, a few Tudor castles, such as Pendennis and St. Mawes and Dartmouth, all part of the scheme of coastal defence planned by King Henry VIII.

Most of the castles from Dorset westwards to Cornwall were raised in the first instance by the Norman kings and their successors to keep open the lines of communication to the south-west, while those of the Marcher counties from Gloucester northward to Chester were literally outposts of Norman rule in which the Norman barons, largely autonomous and holding authority from the king to take what action they chose so long as the subject people were held in check, interpreted their brief in the most bloodthirsty manner and created a tradition of fear and hate which persisted for centuries after most of England was a genuinely united country.

Norman rule was never firmly rooted in Cornwall and was only tolerated, never accepted, in Devon. In this respect the Normans during the first fifty years of their formal tenure of England fared no better and no worse than had the Saxons before them, for though the Saxons founded many villages in East Devon and relatively few in West Devon they scarcely penetrated at all into Cornwall.

Launceston Castle is of special interest because it is the most westerly of the castles which the Normans built in England and marks the limit of Norman military power. There were Norman fortresses at Okehampton and Exeter, the

building of the latter it is said being supervised by William the Conqueror himself.

In Dorset and Somerset conditions in the eleventh and twelfth centuries were much more akin to those ruling in the south-eastern counties. The great castles of Taunton and Corfe are in the same tradition as those of the east. Both were enlarged in subsequent periods and retain some of their medieval defences. It may be conceded, however, that in the whole of the West Country there is not a single Norman fortress as spectacular as Colchester or Rochester. The case is reversed when we come to the later period of castle building, which is admirably represented by several of the castles of the Marcher country, including Ludlow and Chepstow, both of which dominate towns which grew up round them.

Many of the castles of the West Country played a distinguished part in the Civil War, and for almost all of them that war marked the close of their history as castles. In the eastern half of England the engagements fought round the castles during the Civil War were often the first occasions on which the castles had been in a state of formal siege. What military actions they had sustained were principally in the course of operations by the loyal troops in overthrowing a recalcitrant baron or in the course of the petty warfare which unhappily broke out all too often between baron and baron. In the West Country, by contrast, there are few records of barons fighting against each other and comparatively few of barons rebelling against the king. On the other hand, armed strife between the barons and the local people of the west, and particularly the Welsh, was frequent compared with the tranquillity of eastern England. Castles such as Gloucester, Shrewsbury and Ludlow had had the opportunity of proving the passive strength of their fortifications and their very real value in the subjugation of the country. When the Civil War broke out many of the castles such as Corfe were held stoutly in the royalist cause and some withstood a siege of many weeks or months. When finally Cromwell was victorious, he decided not unnaturally that he would ensure once and for all that the castles could never again harbour his enemies. He gave instructions for them to be slighted; that is, in part demolished.

The West Country is rich also in fortified manor-houses. Fortified manor and castle existed side by side for centuries, the former reproducing on a small scale the qualities of the latter, on which it was dependent when heavily attacked.

Stokesay in Shropshire is one of the most interesting and attractive of these. It combines the strength of a castle in miniature with the beauty of half-timbered buildings added in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. It is a real link between the castles and the Tudor or Elizabethan manor-houses which are a feature of all the western counties. Some, especially in the Cotswolds, take added beauty from the texture of their fine building-stone. Others, especially in Shropshire and Herefordshire, are beautiful half-timbered structures of exceptional distinction both in design and in the black-and-white decorative effects of their façades.

GOODRICH CASTLE—A NORMAN FORTRESS BY THE WYE

MEDIEVAL GATE-HOUSES

THE gate-house of the medieval castle
and fortified manor-house was a most
important part of its defences. This
was especially true when as usual the
castle was surrounded by a moat with
almost perpendicular sides, making it
a real obstacle to attack except at the
point where it was crossed by the
causeway or drawbridge which linked
the outer side of the moat with the
main entrance-gate. Raising the draw-
bridge partly solved the difficulty,
but only partly, for a determined
enemy who had gained possession of
the main approach to the castle could
lower the drawbridge and then attack
with strong forces without much
difficulty. The gate-house, therefore,
was often a massive fortification to
prevent any attacker from crossing,
as it were, the threshold of the castle.
In the later castles there was an
elaboration of obstacles to prevent
entry through the gate-house. The
portcullis was a favourite device, a
strong, spiked wooden hurdle which
could be lowered to block the
entrance. Sometimes there were two
or three portcullises. In some castles
the doors were made smaller and
stronger, while inside the door the
passage was narrowed so as to make
defence of it easier. This principle is
well illustrated by the thirteenth-
century entrance of Dunster Castle
(*bottom, left*). When the need for
defence had been superseded, the gate-
house still persisted and appears even
in the half-timbered manor-houses of
Tudor times. It was not until the
building of the Elizabethan mansions
that the gate-house disappeared. The
photograph shown above demon-
strates the absurdity of the gate-house
as a means of defence in later houses,
for here at Lower Brockhampton, near
Bromyard in Herefordshire, a fifteenth-
century manor-house, the gate-house
is detached and a dwelling place.

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STOKESAY IN SHROPSHIRE

A FORTIFIED manor-house, which combined when it was built in the thirteenth century the functions of castle and private dwelling place, Stokesay is still beautiful and though partly in ruins makes an effective picture with its thirteenth-century fortifications, its medieval church with square Norman tower, and its sixteenth-century gate-house. There is an interesting contrast between the stonework of the earlier part of the building and the half-timbered additions. In the Marcher country of Shropshire stone was the traditional building material of castles, timber of manor-houses. So the junction of the two is particularly appropriate at Stokesay. The manor is only a few miles from Ludlow Castle; in the first century of its existence Stokesay was held under the protection of the Marcher Earl, whose headquarters were at Ludlow and to whom it looked for defence in case of attack from the people of Wales. Its own defences were only sufficient to resist light attacks.

RAGLAN CASTLE

ONLY the gaunt ruins of the walls and the keep remain of this former powerful stronghold which played no insignificant part in the struggle between the English and the Welsh. Most of the castles built against the Welsh were situated in the valleys which reach westwards into Wales from the country of the Marcher counties. A few of them were built by the Normans, such as the important castle of Cardiff dominating the Vale of Glamorgan, others were constructed in Edwardian times when most of the early fortresses also were strengthened. Raglan has an unusual position in that it is set on the higher ground between Monmouth and Abergavenny and belongs to a later period in the story of the Welsh struggle, when the uplands of East Wales at least could be held with comparative safety. The castle was at the height of its power from the fifteenth to the seventeenth centuries and is famous for the ten-week siege sustained by the Royalists against Roundheads in 1646.
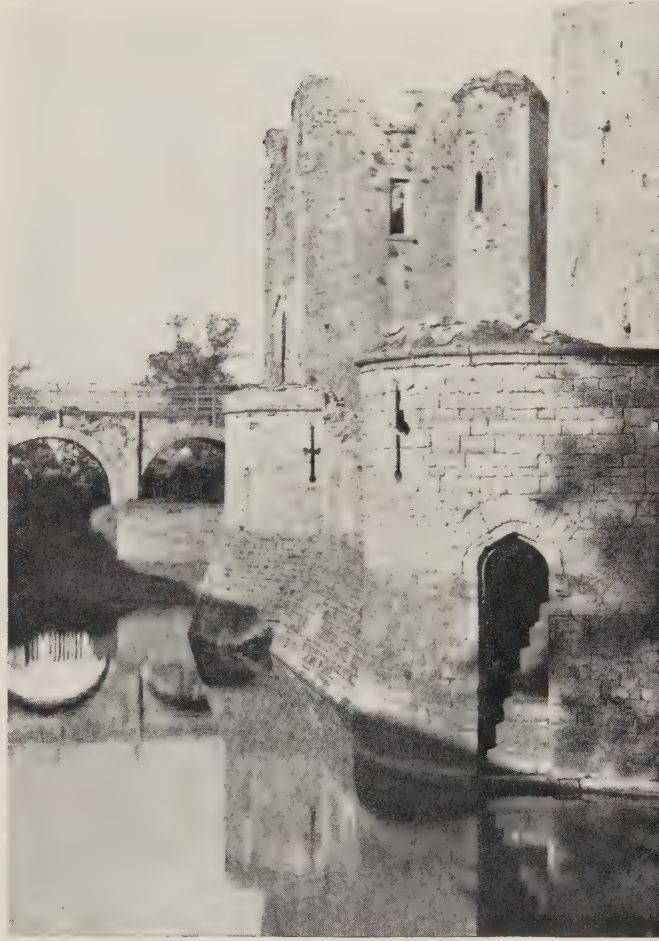
CHEPSTOW CASTLE, THE NORMAN HALL

CHEPSTOW, in Monmouthshire, guarding the mouth of the Wye where it runs into the Severn estuary, was by contrast with Raglan one of the sites fortified continuously from the beginning of the Norman penetration into Wales at the end of the eleventh century until the close of the Civil War. It is impressive in a county justly famed for the number and magnificence of its medieval ruins. The photograph opposite shows part of the Norman keep which was retained when the Edwardian castle was built and served for a long time as the great chamber and banqueting hall of the new castle, when its fabric was enriched and stone carving added. From the photograph it is possible to distinguish the round-headed Norman arches of the original work and the great sweeping pointed arch added in the later reconstruction, with, on the right, the suggestion of Gothic arches and moulding in the later added windows of the upper storey. Originally this building was the main part of the castle's defences, but in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries the strength of the outer walls was so increased and so many bastions and turrets were added that it was felt safe to relegate the keep to its function as state-rooms, for which its size fitted it. Two famous prisoners are numbered among those who in the seventeenth century were kept in bondage here. One of the towers adjoining the keep was the prison of Henry Marten for twenty years until his death in 1680. Marten was one of those who signed the death warrant of Charles I. Earlier, in 1655, Jeremy Taylor was a prisoner for some time. Taylor was the King's Chaplain from 1636. He was created a bishop after the Restoration.

CASTLES OF PREHISTORIC TIMES

MOST of the pictures in this book are of medieval castles and still later manor-houses. There are, however, in Britain many prehistoric fortifications often referred to as castles. These "castles" were in fact fortified villages protected by concentric ramparts and ditches. The earliest of them are dated to the New Stone Age, more than four thousand years ago. Most of these fortifications date from the early Iron Age in the centuries immediately preceding the dawn of Christianity. The so-called British Camp on the Malvern Hills (*above*) and Maiden Castle in Dorset (*below*) are two outstanding examples of such Iron Age tribal centres. The picture of the British Camp clearly shows the encircling ramparts on the hilltop, while the aerial view of Maiden Castle brings out the number and complexity of the defences surrounding the main entrance of this great fortress.

LUDLOW AND THE TEME BRIDGE

LUDLOW was another of the places on the borders of Wales fortified from Norman times onwards (see page 87). Roger de Lacy was the builder of the first castle. The square Norman keep was retained as part of the later medieval defences, when Ludlow was the headquarters of the Lord President of the Marches and one of the most important points in the western defences of England. This photograph looking across the Teme, spanned here by a narrow ancient bridge, shows the Norman keep on the right and the many battlemented towers of the later defences. One of the Lords President of the Marches was the Earl of Bridgwater, who received the honour in 1631 and celebrated it by staging the first performance of Milton's *Comus*. That is not this military stronghold's only link with literature, for in 1660 Samuel Butler was appointed steward of the castle and while in residence wrote the greater part of *Hudibras*. The great hall retains much of the beautiful carving which made it famous about the time when the delightful masque of *Comus* was performed within it.

KING ARTHUR'S CASTLE

THE ruined walls called King Arthur's Castle at Tintagel on the rocky coast of North Cornwall are so woven into the fabric of romance and legend that it is difficult to disentangle the threads of truth. We know that Tintagel was a fortified residence of the Earls of Cornwall in the Middle Ages. According to the early historian, Geoffrey of Monmouth, the Court of King Arthur was held here, but there is little evidence to support the legend. The present castle consists of buildings dating from the twelfth to the fourteenth centuries.

CASTLES OF DEVONSHIRE

MEDIEVAL castles in Devonshire are few because in the great era of castle building Devonshire was not settled enough nor considered important enough for the Normans to go to the expense and trouble of building a large number of protective castles. Later medieval fortified manor-houses, however, are numerous, among them Compton Castle, near Paignton, of which part of the fortifications are shown on right. The castle dates from the fifteenth century. In Tudor times, when Henry VIII decided on a policy of coastal protection, several new castles were erected, including one on either side of the River Dart, shown below, one by Kingswear, the other at Dartmouth. These recall the time when Dartmouth was a great port which contributed many ships to the British Navy. A chain linking the castles helped to defend the harbour.

NORMAN OUTPOSTS

LAUNCESTON (*top, left*) was the westernmost outpost of Norman rule; Rougemont (*bottom, left*), at Exeter, was the central point of the comparatively meagre defences which the Normans provided in Devonshire. Launceston Castle has a long and proud history. There are traditions of fortifications on the castle hill long before the Norman Conquest. It is certain that Launceston was the home of William's favourite baron, Robert de Mortain, though of the castle which he built there little or nothing remains. In the following centuries the Norman stronghold was reconstructed again and again. The massive cylindrical tower in the centre is the earliest part and belongs to the second castle on the site, built probably towards the end of the twelfth century. The surrounding towers were added at least a hundred years later. Impregnable though the fortress appears, even today, it proved inadequate to sustain a lengthy siege during the Civil War. It was held in turn by Crown and Parliament, changing hands in all four times and was still held for the Crown when Prince Charles passed through Cornwall after his abortive bid to wrest victory at the last moment from the Roundheads. The castle of Rougemont is but a fragment of its former self, little more than the gate-house having survived the ravages of time and Roundheads. It was the earliest of the Norman fortresses in Devonshire and was later incorporated in the mural defences of the growing town of Exeter. It endured its first siege during the barons' war of Stephen's reign. Again it gave good account of itself in the rising of Perkin Warbeck, while in the Civil War it was first held by the Roundheads, then captured by the Cavaliers before submitting to Parliament.

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RUINS OF BERRY POMEROY

BERRY POMEROY is a ruin of enduring interest in Devonshire. It is part castle and part seventeenth-century mansion. The photograph reproduced above shows the ruins of the great hall of the later dwelling and gives some idea of the magnificence of this house which was begun by a descendant of Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset, who was Protector in the reign of Edward VI. The great house was never finished and what had already been built, including the hall, soon began to fall into decay. The façade shows all the signs of the more severe type of English building of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The castle proper, the fragmentary ruins of which stand a little way from the great hall, was the seat of the Pomeroy family during much of the late medieval period, and this family gave their name to the place. The first of the line was Ralph, who was granted the manor by William the Conqueror, but it was during the reign of Richard I that a descendant of Ralph, Henry de Pomeroy, built the castle to which the present ruins belong. The castle is situated on the edge of a deep ravine.

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IN MONTACUTE

MONTACUTE HOUSE in Somerset is an elaborate stone-built Elizabethan mansion completed about 1600. The pictures on these two pages show the east front and the porch (*opposite*), the Hull Chamber (*left*) and the Great Hall (*below*). The east front is a conspicuous example of the decline of the gate-house, which has been an important feature of all Tudor and earlier manor-houses but is now relegated to a projecting porch with chambers above. Notice also the severe classical style of the porch and the classical decoration of the balustrade above. Much of the furnishing is of near-contemporary date, such as the bedstead shown in the Hull Chamber which carries the arms of James I, Henry, Prince of Wales, and Elizabeth of Bohemia. In the Great Hall the flattened arch is of interest.

MONTACUTE HOUSE, THE EAST FRONT

ATHELHAMPTON HALL

THE glory of Athelhampton is the banqueting hall with its fine oriel window, the simple but effective tracery of which is seen in the photograph to the left of the entrance porch. There is a legend that King Athelstan, who was King of England for fifteen years in the tenth century and the grandson of King Alfred the Great, had a palace on the same site. It is known for certain that Athelstan was buried at Malmesbury and passed much of his life in the West Country, so that Athelhampton may well have been one of his residences. The present house consists of a Tudor wing built on to an earlier manor-house, though most of the surviving work is Tudor. It had a moat and a gate-house, which has been destroyed, but the greater part of the fabric is intact, its stonework well preserved and its ornament more restrained than usual in the manor-houses of Tudor times. Many generations of the Martins, one of the most famous of Dorset families, lived here and maintained the Tudor workmanship of the façade and the interior in perfect condition for some hundreds of years. Notice the handsome dormer windows in the wing shown on the left and the restrained elegance of the porch, the size of which does nothing to dwarf the splendour of the oriel window in the banqueting hall. Another important factor in the appearance of the house today is the uniformity of the windows with their severe but effective perpendicular mullions and the absence of transoms, an unusual feature.

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ST. CATHERINE'S COURT

PRIOR CANTLOW of Bath Abbey inspired the creation of much fine architecture including the house known as St. Catherine's Court, which was begun in 1495. Prior Cantlow designed it as a retreat for himself and any subsequent officers of the abbey in need of relaxation from the work of organizing what was one of the most considerable of the monastic foundations. His plans went awry for, before the house could serve the purpose for which it was constructed, King Henry VIII had decided that the monasteries were no longer serving a useful purpose and that their wealth could more happily be put to the service of the Crown and State and had dissolved the monastery. Thereafter St. Catherine's Court was a private house. In addition to St. Catherine's Court, Prior Cantlow is credited with the reconstruction of the Church of St. Catherine which is well known for its stained-glass windows and the richness of its late Gothic style. He was also responsible for the building of the Chapel of St. Mary Magdalen in Holloway on the outskirts of Bath itself. In retrospect it must seem that the abbey of Bath at least deserved some of the criticisms levelled against the whole monastic order of extravagant expenditure of their resources. Much of the main fabric of the house as it is today was part of Prior Cantlow's mansion, but the Jacobean porch is a later addition admirably in harmony with the general style of the building. Notice its classical ornament and pillars which contrast with the plain style of the house.

FARLEIGH HUNGERFORD CASTLE

SEVEN miles from Bath is the ruined castle of Farleigh, part of the castle of the Hungerfords, which was previously a manor held by another Somerset family, the Montforts. It was a Sir Walter Hungerford who in the fifteenth century added crenellations to the manor with the wealth he had obtained as ransom for the Duke of Orleans, for whose capture he was responsible at the Battle of Agincourt. The photograph shows almost all that remains of this fifteenth-century fortified manor, the fragments of the walls, the remains of what was a moat, the gate-house, and the chapel. The castle was protected by a sheer drop beyond the walls on the farther side, an almost unscalable ravine, and by a moat on the near side. In the Civil War it played an unusual part, for while the lord of the manor was for Parliament and was fighting with the Roundheads it was defended for the King.

FORTRESS OF THE DORSET HILLS

THE ruins of Corfe Castle are set on a detached hill in the centre of the Purbeck range. The castle was the strongest of the Norman castles in Dorset. It was often repaired and rebuilt, the fragment of the ruins shown on the right testifying with its graceful pointed arches to the beauty as well as the enormous strength of thirteenth-century architecture. The history of the site of Corfe begins in Saxon times, when there is a legend that it was a royal hunting lodge at which Edward the Martyr was shamefully done to death at the behest of his stepmother in 978. The last event in its history was when Lady Bankes with consummate skill and determination prolonged a notable siege at the time that the castle was beleaguered by the Roundheads in the Civil War.

CARDIFF CASTLE—NORMAN STRONGHOLD, EDWARDIAN CASTLE

Wales

THE castles of Wales combine to an exceptional degree the qualities of the picturesque and the historic. Although they are in an entirely different tradition from those of southern and eastern England, many of them are comparable in the sheer magnificence of their building with such famous fortresses as Rochester or London. In tradition they are more akin to those of the West Country and especially of the Marcher counties, with which in historic fact a number of them were linked as part of a single military system.

In the eleventh and twelfth centuries the Norman tenure of Wales was slender. It is a tribute to the pioneering spirit of the barons that they made any serious effort to bring the peoples of wild Wales within the orbit of the government centred in London and Winchester. They did not, of course, entirely succeed. They did, however, plant a number of garrisons, especially in the fertile valleys of South Wales, as at Cardiff and Pembroke, so linking the fortresses of western England with the Atlantic coast of Wales in order to keep open a sure line of communication, while by the twelfth century Monmouth and Glamorgan were firmly established as parts of the Anglo-Norman dominion.

That in itself was an achievement of no mean import, for the Welsh did not take kindly to the arrival of Norman overlords and were constantly descending from their mountain strongholds to attack the castles while they were being built and even after they were garrisoned. The strong walls of Cardiff withstood most of these attacks, but several of the smaller castles failed to survive the determined onslaughts. The inevitable result was that the Normans made a limited withdrawal while maintaining their positions on the borders of Wales and at places such as Cardiff and Chepstow.

In the reign of Edward I a determined effort was made to subdue the Welsh people afresh and to extend the central government to the farthest corners of the country. The effort was not only determined but at least in part successful. The first step was to reinforce and in most cases rebuild the fortifications of all the castles strung across the Vale of Glamorgan and reaching into Pembrokeshire. Then small chains of fortresses were built from the Marcher counties westwards into the valleys of central Wales, and finally a further chain was forged around the northern lowlands reaching from Denbigh to Caernarvon and Harlech.

The great interest of these Edwardian castles is that they introduced an entirely new feature of design. Most of the Norman castles had been based on a

central keep, a square or circular tower divided into floors, but only designed to receive the garrison when the walls of the outer ward had been breached. In practice, however, it was found that when once these outer walls had been taken by storm the siege which the keep could sustain was very limited in time.

The Edwardian castles relied on an entirely different principle. Instead of being castles within castles, like the Norman ones, they depended for their defence on the strength of the encircling walls and were without a keep in the ordinary sense of the term. In some cases the walls were double, so giving the characteristic plan of the concentric castle, of which Harlech and Beaumaris are the two outstanding examples.

Representing the first stage in the pacification of Wales by the English, or rather by the Anglo-Normans, only the castle of Cardiff retains enough Norman work to justify us today in calling it a Norman castle. A second stage was initiated in South Wales by the Earl of Pembroke about 1200. Little is known specifically about this almost legendary figure, but it is certain that the rebuilding of some large castles such as Pembroke, and small intermediate fortresses such as Usk, was due to his efforts and that he, whether acting independently or under direct orders of the Crown, initiated the idea of castles without a keep. As for the third stage, carried out with far greater success in the reign of Edward I, it is tempting to see in this revolutionary design of the concentric castle the influence of the Levant. Certainly the Crusades brought many ideas of the East, and particularly military theories, which were put to the test in the Holy Wars, into Britain. Equally certainly the keepless castle was a kind which had a great deal of success in the later Crusades.

Although concentric castles such as Harlech are recognized as the fullest development in the science of castle building in Britain, it is a surprising fact that two of the largest and mightiest of Edwardian castles were not of this type. These are Conway and Caernarvon, both of which rely on the strength of a single encircling wall protected by turrets and drum towers. On both these sites there had been earlier castles built under the auspices of Lupus, Earl of Chester, who of all the Marcher earls acted most independently of the Crown and carried his standard from his base at Chester into North Wales. The Edwardian castles at Conway and Caernarvon were, however, entirely new and in both it is possible to see not only a brilliant military conception but a growing sensibility for comfort.

Another interesting feature of the Edwardian castles, partly for defence and partly for embellishment, is the gate-house. At Harlech, where the sheer cliff on which the castle is built forbids approach except on one side, there is only one gate-house. In several of the others there are two, each a complicated and almost unassailable fortress in itself, the gateway flanked by towers and guarded by drawbridge, portcullis and other defences.

THE CASTLE OF CAREW

PEMBROKESHIRE in the Middle Ages had far more than its proportionate share of castles. The Normans regarded it as the key to Wales because of its position at the extreme end of the belt of fertile lowlands stretching from the mouth of the Severn through the Vale of Glamorgan to the Atlantic coast. In the Edwardian offensive on the principality the county still figured largely in the royal scheme of defence and attack. The many castles which span Pembrokeshire from end to end and especially near the coast were the bases for operations against the undisciplined Welsh people whose retreat was in the mountains. Carew was never one of the most important of these military strongholds, though it formed a vital link in the line of castles which started at the fortress of Cardiff and extended westward through Manorbier to Pembroke and was prolonged by a chain of smaller castles along the west coast. There may have been an earlier castle on the site, but the oldest parts of the substantial ruins pictured above are Edwardian. Sir John Perrot, an eminent Elizabethan, redesigned it, though the house he started was never completed.

THE FORTRESS OF CAERPHILLY

A PERFECT example of a concentric castle, Caerphilly has in recent times, like Cardiff, been restored through the efforts of the Marquess of Bute. Though some of the earlier features of the ruins have been lost, it presents today very much the appearance that it must have had in the thirteenth century when it was the home of Gilbert de Clare, the "Red Earl," who also held Cardiff and whose bloody warfare against the Welsh caused consternation even in the minds of contemporary chroniclers, hardened as they were to deeds of violence on the outer fringes of the English domain. For a hundred and fifty years it was one of the chief bones of contention between the English and the Welsh. The Welsh national hero, Owen Glendower, who succeeded in capturing Cardiff temporarily and burnt the castle there, was less successful against Caerphilly, though he made numerous attacks upon it. Edward II came here as a refugee. In the Civil War it withstood a long siege during which, it is said, an attempt was made to destroy the outer fortifications by mining. The "leaning tower" on the south-east corner may well have fallen out of true in the course of this operation, when the besiegers fired gunpowder under the strongest part of the defences. There is no record of how successful this early mine warfare proved to be, nor of the ultimate fate of the castle, though it may well have been slighted at the close of the Civil War. The principle of defence underlying the concentric castle is here clearly shown. There is no keep in the medieval sense but only an outer and inner ward, each protected by its own thick walls further strengthened by circular towers and gate-houses.

KIDWELLY CASTLE

THIS view of Kidwelly Castle from the south shows well the extent and strength of the medieval defences and also the commanding mound on which the castle was built. This, like several others pictured in the book, was one of the chain of castles refortified in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries as part of the network of fortresses covering South Wales. Thus it was linked with the strong castle in the county town of Carmarthen (constructed in the early part of the fourteenth century) and also with the number of castles built across the Vale of Glamorgan, including Cardiff and Caerphilly. It also formed a link in the chain of castles drawn round the coast, which included Tenby and Pembroke. There was a castle at Kidwelly towards the end of the Norman period and much of its fabric may have been included in the later one which was built on the concentric plan though not so fully developed as at Harlech or Beaumaris (pages 107 and 109). Special features of the defences were the enormously strong gate-house shown in the foreground and the cylindrical towers which gave added protection to the walls at all vulnerable points. The castle later came into the possession of the House of Lancaster. The town of Kidwelly received its first charter from the Lancastrian Henry VI in the fifteenth century.

MANORBIER CASTLE

MANORBIER was in an extremely important strategic position in the medieval conflict between the English and the Welsh, for it guarded the road between the fortress of Pembroke protecting Milford Haven and the several castles round Carmarthen Bay, including Kidwelly. From the beginning of the twelfth century onwards the Anglo-Normans set great store on retaining a hold on the southern coastline of Wales, not only because it included some of the best agricultural lands in the country but because, however insecurely held, this chain of fortresses could serve as a spring-board when subjugation of the tribes of central Wales was contemplated. In Manorbier the Normans selected an almost perfect site for a castle, the advantages of which for defence are clearly shown in the photograph. The castle mound commands the sea to the south and what was then, as it is now, the coast road on the north. The exact date of the construction of the castle here is not known, but substantial parts of the masonry, as evidenced by the round-arched window openings, are clearly Norman. The Anglo-Norman colonists were well established in this part of Pembrokeshire early in the twelfth century. The site was re-fortified at the time of the Edwardian drive against Wales. The castle was used until the close of the Civil War.

HARLECH

HARLECH CASTLE is set on an abruptly
rising rock, unscalable on two sides,
and overlooks a vast expanse of marsh
bordering on Tremadoc Bay. This is
one of the most perfect of the Edwardian concentric castles. The general
view below shows the outer defences,
the gate-house, the strong walls and
the angle towers. The photograph
on right looking into the court-yard
suggests the number of concentric
defences. From the reign of Edward I
onwards Harlech was a key point in
the defences of the Welsh coastal
district and the subjugation of the
Welsh tribes. In the Wars of the Roses
it was a Lancastrian strongpoint and
suffered a siege by the Yorkists when
the courage and endurance of the
garrison inspired the traditional song
"The Men of Harlech." Finally in
the Civil War it maintained its place
of honour as the last fortress in
North Wales to fly the Royal Standard.

THE CASTLE OF RHUDDLAN

RHUDDLAN CASTLE is far better known than many in Wales because of its position less than four miles from the holiday resort of Rhyl. It is one of the secondary chain of fortresses built by the Earls of Chester who enjoyed a position in the county palatine which was very nearly independent of the king and extended their influence westwards at every opportunity. The purpose of these castles was to keep open communications between Chester, the northern plain of Wales and the Isle of Anglesey. They are thus counterparts of the more numerous castles which linked Gloucester and Monmouth with the Vale of Glamorgan and Pembrokeshire. Rhuddlan lies near the northern end of the Vale of Clwyd, one of the most fertile of the North Wales valleys, and was linked with the fortress of Denbigh which guarded the upper part of the Vale and dominated the road over the pass which led through Ruthin to the Vale of Llangollen. A certain similarity of design between this early Edwardian castle and Harlech, shown on the previous page, can be seen. There is the same type of wall protected at the corners of the outer ward by strong circular towers. Rhuddlan has, however, one unusual feature in that its two gatehouses are placed at the opposite angles of the rectangular enclosure formed by the walls.

FORTRESS OF ANGLESEY

BEAUMARIS seems to have had no castle before the end of the thirteenth century, when it formed an integral part of the Welsh defences raised through the vigour and foresight of Edward I. It is thus similar in date to Harlech, Caernarvon and Conway, and also the smaller castle of Criccieth, although there is no evidence of earlier fortifications on the same site as there had been, for instance, at Caernarvon. Its real purpose was to help to hold the conquests which were so hardly won during the last quarter of the thirteenth century. It guarded the Menai Strait and incidentally the only town in the Isle of Anglesey which was of importance in those days, and which is now the county town. Anglesey was also a natural refuge for the king's enemies and from time immemorial had proved the home of lost causes and the rallying ground of movements such as that associated with the Druid religion which had been successfully driven from the mainland. It is no surprise, therefore, to find that Beaumaris is one of the strongest of all the Welsh fortresses and, like Harlech, a model of the concentric style of castle. Its defences consist of an outer wall protected by the usual circular towers at the corners and also at the centre of each side except where there is a gate-house. The photograph also suggests the towers which defend the walls of the inner ward. This court-yard is yet another rectangular walled-enclosure.

THE GREAT CASTLE

THIS fortress was regarded at the time it was built as one of the half-dozen most magnificent castles in Europe. It was started about 1285 and was not completed until 1325. Unlike

OF CAERNARVON

most of the Edwardian castles, it is not concentric in form but depends for its defences on the strength of its outer wall and the ring of encircling towers shown in the photograph.
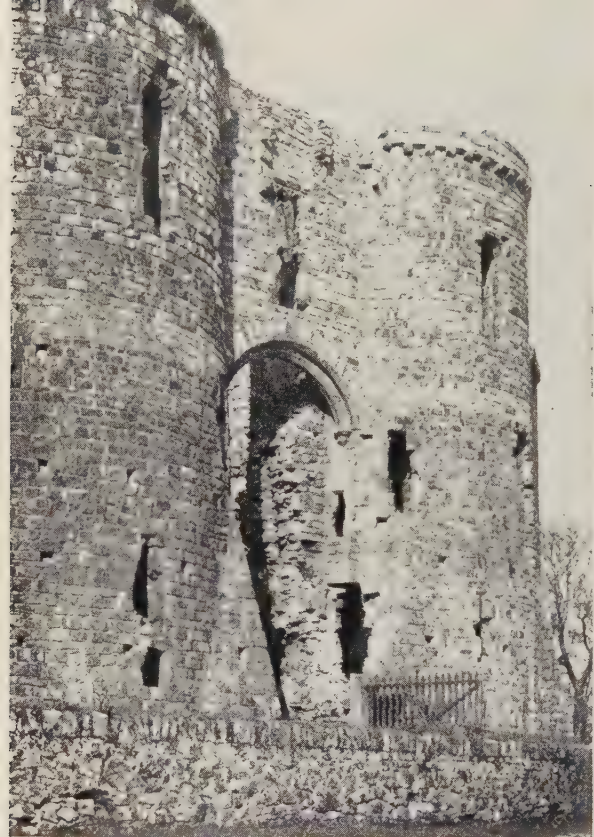
FRAGMENTS OF MEDIEVAL CASTLES

MANY of the smaller castles of Wales retain points of special interest or beauty. Llawhaden Castle, of which the unusual gate-house is shown (*above, left*), was a small castle originally held by the Bishops of St. David's, the castle being linked in close ties of mutual defence with those of Tenby and Pembroke. The keep of Dolwyddelan Castle in Caernarvonshire (*above, right*) is famous as the birthplace of Llewellyn, the most effective and statesmanlike of the Welsh princes before the union. It dates mainly from the thirteenth century, the ruins also showing traces of Norman work. Aberystwyth Castle (*left*) is now only a single tower standing on an abrupt hill at the end of the promenade, but it was a link in the chain of Edwardian fortresses.

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PLAS NEWYDD

This is one of the show places of the Llangollen area of Denbighshire. The house is set in one of the most beautiful parts of the Vale of Llangollen. The oak carvings which distinguish the façade and also form part of the internal decorations are unique. The house has had many famous visitors, including the novelist, Sir Walter Scott, and the Lake District poet, William Wordsworth. One of the latter's sonnets pays tribute to two ladies, Sarah Ponsonby and Lady Eleanor Butler, who were his hosts and lived in the house from 1780 until their respective deaths in 1831 and 1829. Known as the Ladies of Llangollen, they threw open their house to guests of distinction in many walks of life, their visitors numbering not only the great literary figures but also soldiers like the Duke of Wellington.

CASTLE STALKER, LOCH LINNHE, ARGYLLSHIRE

Scotland

MANY hundreds of years ago Scotland seized the imagination of the world as a land of romance. Even in the workaday world of the twentieth century Scottish legends and Scottish life evoke thoughts of romance in the minds of the "foreigner." And "foreigner" still means the English as much as it does the French or the Americans, or the people of any other nationality.

A great deal of the romance, and a wealth of legend and tradition, are reflected in the story of the Scottish castles, in the often beautiful and sometimes extensive ruins of the medieval fortresses which have been handed down to the present. Almost every castle of the Lowlands is linked with the wars between England and Scotland, that long fluctuating conflict in which first one side and then the other held the upper hand but never for long enough to reach a final and irrevocable decision. Some of the tales which are told about the castles sound fanciful, some of the sieges which they endured may have been exaggerated in the telling, but there is underlying it all a hard core of truth. That is the reality of the stubborn defence which the Scots offered against any foe and in particular against the English Crown at a time when it seemed that the English aim was to reduce the proud land of Scotland to a distant and subordinate part of the English realm.

The castles of Scotland, therefore, have little in common with those of England or even with those of Wales. They do not even derive from the same civilization. The Romans never penetrated effectively farther than Hadrian's Wall, joining the Solway Firth with the Tyne, though antiquaries have found reason to suppose that there were Roman camps for a time farther north.

In the centuries which followed the Roman occupation of England Christianity spread to Scotland from Ireland, and in the later centuries of the first millennium much of southern Scotland fell within the kingdom of the Saxon Northumbria. There is a legend that Edinburgh was originally Edwin's Burgh and that Edwin, King of Northumbria, was the first to build a fortified place at Edinburgh.

At the same time there was a flourishing Pictish kingdom which for a time had its centre at Inverness. There is little doubt that the first castle on the castle rock of Inverness was a Pictish one. Little of these early fortresses, whether Saxon or Pictish, remains, though there are numerous towers in the north which some call Pictish towers and which may first have been built as look-outs or defence points in those distant days. These Pictish towers are uncertain in date and probably range over a span of many centuries.

So, too, when we come to Norman times in England there is no corresponding activity to parallel the Norman building of castles all over the south and east. Though Norman architecture spread into Scotland nearly a century after it had come to England there are very few castles which show any traces of the round arches and characteristic architecture of the Norman builders.

The early fortresses of Scotland were both ruder and more numerous than in England. They served the purpose of the moment, but were not substantial enough to survive through a thousand years. What is more, those few which may have had stronger and more permanent defences were sacked again and again in the wars between England and Scotland, often burnt to the ground and, if not burnt, dismantled with the intention that they could never serve to harbour an enemy again.

The policy of Robert Bruce, crowned King of Scotland when Edward I was King of England, did much to sweep away castles which might otherwise have survived. After doing homage to Edward I, Bruce allied himself with the cause of Scotland for the Scots and in 1306 was crowned King of Scotland. Defeated and sent into exile, he returned and drove the English from all the castles of the south before routing the forces of Edward II at Bannockburn. Can it be wondered at that his policy, so successfully carried to a conclusion, of freeing Scotland for the time at least from the English included the destruction of all the castles that had harboured the English?

Most of the existing castle ruins are not much earlier than the end of the fourteenth century, many of them dating from the fifteenth or sixteenth century, though these later ruins sometimes bear the traces of earlier fortresses on the same site. All over the southern uplands and in the lowland belt these castles are still numerous. They represent the other side of the story which is told in England by the fortified manor-houses in the Border country and especially in Northumberland. No one who dwelt to the south and east of the Highlands could feel safe, at least in the fourteenth century. So every house of size was fortified.

The point at which the history of Scottish castles parallels that of English ones is in the Civil War of the seventeenth century. The struggle between King and Parliament proved nearly as disastrous to the castles of Scotland as it did to those of England. Many were slighted and rendered unfit ever to be lived in again.

In the Highland country, however, the devastation of the Civil War was very much less. Many of the Highland castles continued as the homes of the clan chiefs until the eighteenth or nineteenth century.

The Highland castles, too, have a different place in Scottish history from those of the Lowlands. They originated not so much as castles against the English as fortified houses designed to protect the people of one clan from those of other neighbouring and warlike clans. Fighting between the clans was taken for granted.

GLAMIS CASTLE

A Gothic palace of elaborate design, Glamis is the seat of the Earls of Strathmore. Glamis is also the traditional home of Macbeth, where legend has it that he murdered Duncan.

THE ROCK OF EDINBURGH

THE castle of Edinburgh still dominates the capital city as it has for a thousand years or more. It is set in an unassailable position on the bare rock which rises above the Princes Street Gardens. The site has been fortified since the seventh century. During the warfare in which England and Scotland were engaged intermittently for hundreds of years, the castle was often besieged by the English, its longest and bloodiest siege being in 1545.

STIRLING CASTLE

A ROYAL palace and military stronghold of the first importance, the site of Stirling Castle, like that of Edinburgh, has been a stronghold for probably more than a thousand years, a position for which nature has made it specially suitable by reason of the nearly perpendicular rocky eminence on which it is set overlooking the fertile central plain of Scotland. Stirling Castle shows today the extreme conservatism of sites and in its modern rebuilt form is still used as a barracks. Though it lacks Edinburgh's history in the first millenium A.D., there was a notable castle on the rock of Stirling in the Middle Ages which many of the Scottish kings visited or made their home, in common with the palaces of Perth and Edinburgh. It is said to have been the chief residence of two of the most famous of Scottish kings, William the Lion and Alexander I. It was, too, the birthplace of several Scottish kings, including James II and James V. James II adopted it as his favourite dwelling place and in 1450 when he was twenty years old he plotted there the murder of the chief of the dissenting Douglas clan who was visiting him for negotiation. The room in which the assassination is said to have taken place, the Douglas room, along with many other parts of the castle, is today open to the public. Like Edinburgh once more, Stirling was several times besieged by the English though because it lay farther from the centre of Border warfare it suffered less than Edinburgh. At the beginning of the fourteenth century it was captured by Edward I in the course of his long struggle to bring Wales and Scotland under the English Crown, but after the defeat of Bannockburn the English were compelled to surrender it to Robert Bruce who led the Scottish forces at this time.

CAERLAVEROCK CASTLE

THERE are records of a fortified house on the site of Caerlaverock in the thirteenth century, but the castle, now ruined, was begun in 1425 and became the seat of the powerful Maxwell family. Its position only a few miles from Dumfries, always one of the most important towns in southern Scotland, made it especially valuable in Scottish defence and doubtless dictated the exceptionally strong fortifications which surround it. It is indeed as impressive an example of fifteenth-century military architecture as any in Scotland. In ground plan it is triangular, its arrangement of walls and drum tower being not unlike that of the Edwardian castles and others erected about the same time in Wales and on the borders of England and Scotland. An earlier castle on the same site was besieged by Edward I and changed hands several times. The later castle was besieged in the Covenanters' Rebellion of 1640 and was dismantled after a thirteen weeks' siege. A picturesque feature of the ruins today is the double moat which unhappily is becoming more and more filled in.

CASTLES OF CENTRAL SCOTLAND

CRAIGMILLAR CASTLE (*right*) in spite of its apparently rural surroundings is only three miles from the centre of Edinburgh. It was built in 1427 and was a royal residence during the reign of James V, and later was often visited by Mary, Queen of Scots. Doune Castle (*below*) is the ruin of another fifteenth-century baronial castle, the home of the Menteiths and later of the Earls of Moray, descendants of the Regent Moray. Robert, Duke of Albany, is the traditional builder of the castle, the date being 1450. Though the state rooms were noted for their lavish embellishment the whole mould of the castle was military and the façade lacked the fanciful turrets and ornaments which were the distinguishing mark of much of the Scottish baronial architecture.

LATE MEDIEVAL CASTLES IN SCOTLAND

THE middle of the fourteenth century until nearly the end of the fifteenth was the period during which the largest number of Scottish castles was built, nearly two hundred years after the most prolific period of castle building in England. During this time many of the existing lowland castles were built afresh or else their fortifications were strengthened and remodelled. The earliest of the three shown left on this page, Dunnottar, near Stonehaven, was formerly the seat of the Earls Marischal of Scotland. Its keep was raised in the last years of the fourteenth century, though there had been a strong fortress here earlier. Neidpath (*above, left*) and Borthwick (*above, right*) are both fifteenth century, the former on the Tweed, the latter near Edinburgh.

DIRLETON CASTLE

DIRLETON CASTLE is situated near the Firth of Forth on the Edinburgh road out of North Berwick. There are records of a castle here in the thirteenth century, when it was involved in the wars with England and in 1297 laid in ruins. A hundred years later it had risen again and continued as a fortress residence of several lowland families until the Civil War, when the final events in its history were enacted. General Lambert, one of Cromwell's most successful commanders, after reducing a number of castles in the eastern marches of Scotland, came to Dirleton and only reduced it after a long siege. The battlements, already damaged, were torn down and the interior of the castle stripped. The castle has remained in a state of decay since this time. The remains of one of the towers is seen on right.

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ON THE ISLE OF BARRA, OUTER HEBRIDES

THE castles of the Highlands and the Western Isles reflect a very different tradition from that of the Lowlands. Most of the fighting between England and Scotland and the numerous civil wars centred round the castles and fortified houses between the Border and the line of the Forth and Tay and in the coastal strip to the east of the mountains. Meanwhile the Highlands went their own way, each valley dominated by a clan, the chief of which often held a stronghold or castle, sometimes two or three. The clan system with its quasi-military, quasi-feudal organization persisted well into modern times and many of the castles of the Highlands continued in use as the residence of the chief of the clan for hundreds of years after the castle age in other parts of Scotland had ended. Kismull Castle, pictured above, is one of the most picturesquely situated of the clan fortresses. Set on a rocky islet off Barra, it was the home of MacNeills until the nineteenth century.

INSIDE HISTORIC SCOTTISH CASTLES

CRICHTON CASTLE (*right*), only a short distance from Borthwick Castle (page 122) and the Crichton of Sir Walter Scott's reference in *Marmion* "As through its portals Marmion rode," is an interesting mixture of fourteenth-, fifteenth- and sixteenth-century building with a wealth of classical detail rare in Scottish architecture. The photograph shows the inner court with the Italian-style screen added towards the end of the sixteenth century. The person responsible for building this part of the castle was probably Francis Stewart, fifth Earl of Bothwell, nephew of the Earl who married Mary Queen of Scots. He is known to have studied at the University of Padua and to have been a great lover of Italy and Italian culture. Below is shown the kitchen of Tolquhon in Aberdeenshire, another sixteenth-century ruin, some of which is very finely preserved, including the fine low-roofed kitchen.

ONE OF SCOTLAND'S ROYAL HOMES

QUEEN VICTORIA and the Prince Consort inspired the building of Balmoral Castle. The Queen purchased the estate from the Earl of Fife in 1852. The Prince Consort, among whose interests architecture always figured largely, drew up designs which were largely followed for the building. The material used was gleaming white granite, a most happy choice which throws into bold relief the highly individual style of the great range of buildings with their many gables and turrets and pinnacles. As seen from the hills, especially on a clear day, the shining façade makes a most striking picture. The east tower is a hundred feet high and commands a fine view. Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort visited the new castle at frequent intervals, using it as a base from which to visit many of the cities and towns of eastern Scotland and to attend the Highland Games at Braemar. It was thus that the Queen's interest was aroused in traditional Scottish dancing. The Royal Family's keen interest in Scotland and its traditional ways, strengthened further through the Scottish ancestry of the present Queen, is well known and Balmoral Castle is still one of the favourite residences of the King and Queen and the Princesses. Memorial cairns to members of the Royal Family have been erected on a mountain nearby, called Craig Gowan. Abergeldie Castle, another royal residence, is situated about a mile away.

THE CASTLE OF INVERNESS

IN SPITE of its appearance to the contrary, and its quaint mixture of medieval styles, the castle of Inverness is a modern building raised in the nineteenth century and used as the county prison and sheriff's court-house. The Castle Hill on which it is built, however, rising steeply from the River Ness, has had a long and eventful history; there were several castles on the site before the present building was erected. Guarding the entrance to the Great Glen, Inverness Castle was for centuries one of the homes of the Scottish kings. Before that there were strong fortifications when Inverness was the capital city of the Pictish kingdom. Traditionally known as Macbeth's castle, the medieval buildings were chosen by Shakespeare as the scene of Duncan's murder by Macbeth, though most accounts place this foul deed at Glamis. Malcolm Canmore is closely associated with the castle; he took Macbeth's castle by storm, destroying the old fortifications and building a new castle which changed hands many times and is said to have suffered more than a dozen sieges. This castle was still the scene of fighting in the eighteenth century. Besieged in both the '15 and '45 Rebellions, it was finally destroyed after a fierce battle at the beginning of 1746 when the Highland forces took it by storm and blew up its still strong defences.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS